The Official Magazine of World Championship Wrestling

Issue 17 July 1996

WCW magazine

THIS IS NITRO

TNT

A behind the scenes look at wrestling's most exciting show

MY RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Lex Luger In the Hotseat

THE ROAD WARRIORS FACE THE FANS

USA $3.95 UK £2.50
CANADA $4.95

07

0 71896 48770

TBS SUPERSTATION

Catch the HOTTEST wrestling action on TV every week!

TNT

HUGH MORRUS
WCW
World Championship Wrestling™

WCW magazine

COLIN BOWMAN
Editor/Publication Director

ROSS FORMAN BOB SMITH
Executive Editors

FOR
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
DR. HARVEY SCHILLER
President

ERIC BISCHOFF
Senior Vice President &
General Manager

NICK LAMBROS
Vice President
Business & Administration

LYNN BRENT
USA Magazine Co-ordinator

BOBBY HEENAN, GENE OKERLUND,
TONY SCHIAVONE, MADUSA
COL. ROBERT PARKER,
LARRY ZBYSZKO, DUSTY RHODES,
JIMMY HART, ALAN SHARP,
MARK MADDEN, LORD REGAL
Contributing Editors

STEVE LAMPON GAVIN MOWER
Executive Art Directors

ROS SAMUELSON TIM DIGNON
RAY CHARLES
Art Associates

MARTIN COX
Production Manager

DUNCAN WEB OFFSET
Printer

J. STOLL COLIN BOWMAN
MARK HILL
Photography

The entire contents of this publication are copyright ©1996 World Championship Wrestling™. All rights reserved. Hulk Hogan, Hulkamania and Hulkster are trademarks of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., licensed to World Championship Wrestling, Inc. All other distinctive names and character likenesses herein are trademarks of World Championship Wrestling, Inc. Nothing in this publication may be reproduced without the express written consent of WCW™ and the Publisher.
WCW™ and the Publisher are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. All materials submitted for inclusion in this magazine may be subject to any edits deemed neccesary by the Publisher.
WCW World Championship Wrestling, (UK ISSN 1357-0137) (USA UPC 71896-48770) (USPS 012544) is published monthly by Cell Publishing Ltd., 28/30 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND. Single copy price is $3.95 USA, $4.95 CANADA, £2.50 UK. Subscription rates for 12 issues are USA $38.00, UK £24.00. Subscriptions should be sent to USA & CANADA - WCW Magazine, c/o Colin Bowman, One CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta, GA30348-5366. UK & IRELAND - WCW Magazine, 28/30 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND. US & Canadian distribution by KABLE NEWS COMPANY INC, 11 West 42nd St, New York, NY10036. UK & Ireland distribution by COMAG Magazine Marketing, Tavistock Rd, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7QE. Royal Mail International, c/o Yellowstone International, 87 Burlews Court, Hackensack, NJ 07601. 'Second Class Postage Paid at South Hackensack' 'POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Royal Mail International, c/o Yellowstone International, 2375 Pratt Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-5937' Printed in the United Kingdom

EDITOR'S NOTE

As I've mentioned before, one of the best things about being the Editor of WCW Magazine is the opportunities for travel that present themself. With that in mind I am really excited by the fact that WCW is once again returning to New York and Philadelphia for the first time in ages.

I will be in attendance at all of our shows in the North East and I look forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible.

Of course the other event that I can't wait for is Hog Wild at Sturgis. This is my idea of heaven. Thousands of Harley-Davidsons and World Championship Wrestling together in one place, overlooked by some of the finest scenery anywhere in the world.

On my travels one of the questions I am most frequently asked is 'How do I become a wrestler?'

Well first it is important that you finish your education and make sure that you have a good base to fall back on. Just like every sport, wrestling involves a degree of danger and an injury could be just around the corner. So education is the most important thing.

Having completed school, you have to enroll in a respectable wrestling training facility, such as our own Power Plant. (Phone 1-404-351-4959)

Diet and conditioning are also important and in the gym your cardiovascular workouts are as important as those for strength. After all, Ric Flair, Randy Savage and Lord Steven Regal aren't the strongest of wrestlers but they can outlast all of their opponents in the ring and are able to wrestle for over an hour without tiring.

Remember size isn't everything, particularly when there is the Cruiserweight title to chase and women shouldn't be excluded either. Train hard and believe in yourselves. If you do that you can achieve anything.

And who knows, I could be writing about you in the future.

Regards

Colin Bowman
Editor

CONTENTS

ISSUE 17 JULY 1996

ISSUE 18 ON SALE JULY 16th 1996

FEATURES

6 THIS IS NITRO
16 GETTING FIT WITH THE BOOTY BABE
20 HORSEMAN 4 EVER
30 IN THE HOTSEAT
Lex Luger
36 CRUISING FOR GLORY
40 1995 READER AWARDS
48 FACES OF FEAR

DEPARTMENTS

4 WCW UPDATE
14 TAG TALK
18 BRAIN REACTION
22 EXPERT ASSESSMENT
Nasty Boys
24 LOOKING BACK
29 PROGRAM GUIDE & EVENT CALENDAR
35 MADUSA
38 TALKING POINT WITH TONY
43 FACE THE FANS
The Road Warriors
46 HOTLINE BUZZ
50 THE REGAL DECREE

WCW UPdate

THE GIANT COMES OF AGE

The day was April 29, 1996, a Monday night that will go down in wrestling history. It will, no doubt, be a day fans and promoters alike — not to mention the wrestlers themselves — will never forget, one that will live in wrestling lore. Remember where you were the day the great Hulk Hogan joined WCW? Remember the day, and exactly where you were, during the summer day in 1994 when Hulk Hogan captured the WCW World Heavyweight Championship? Well, April 29, 1996, will join the ranks of incredible moments.

It was, you see, the telecast of the Monday Nitro when The Giant defeated then-13-time Champion Ric Flair to claim the WCW World Heavyweight Championship. Yep, wrestling greatness was made that evening.

"It was a day of reckoning and awakening for Ric Flair," The Giant said days later during a sit-down locker room interview, the belt draped over his right leg. "That night was an accumulation of concentrated efforts on my part to regain the World Heavyweight Championship which — as you know, if you're smart — I won before (at last year's Halloween Havoc in Detroit) until it was taken away from me by the WCW Championship Committee for reasons I still don't understand."

BIRTHDAY CORNER

Birthdays this month include:

June 22 **Shark**
July 5 **Jerry Sags**
July 10 **Johnny Grunge**

"I won the Monday Nitro match in front of the world, no question about it, and I couldn't be happier. And if people like me as the Champion, fine. If they don't, that too is fine. I really don't care what others think."

The Giant's championship moment was preceded the week earlier by one of the youngster's most embarrassing moments: he had coffee thrown in his face by his own tag team partner, Ric Flair. Well, Flair's misfortune with coffee turned into Giant woes for the 'Nature Boy' seven days later.

"The hot coffee surprised me and, at the same time, infuriated me. The coffee burned and it definitely was a wake-up call," said The Giant who — believe it or not — is still a wrestling rookie. "Some fans might consider my championship victory an incredible feat, but I don't. Ever since I was small ... make that young; I never was small ... I've always had my eyes on winning the WCW World Heavyweight Championship. And that was my moment to shine."

"Growing up, Ric Flair was one of the wrestlers I always enjoyed watching; that's what makes this title victory all the more special. He still is a quality wrestler, no questions about it. He's the Siegmund Freud of the wrestling world in terms of psychology, but I'm the Champion. I took every blow he had to give that night, then, when the time was right, gave him the one thing he couldn't handle: the chokeslam."

The Giant defended the title against Sting and "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, among others, during the days and weeks after claiming it.

"When you look at the WCW World Heavyweight belt, the most prestigious belt in the world, you might not realize that it's 40-pounds of gold and jewels. It's a stunning piece of jewelry," The Giant said. "I've noticed that, whenever anyone else wore it, be it "Macho Man" Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan or Ric Flair, it looked like a huge stop sign around the persons's waist, kinda like the 8-year-old wearing his dad's shoes. But, when the belt is around my waist, it fits perfectly ... I guess it was just meant to be there."

"As for the "Macho Man," he probably is the most dangerous wrestler in WCW after The Giant; that's because there's not a single move that you can predict with him. You could be eating Sunday morning brunch with President Clinton and, if Savage was upset, he'd disrupt the event. I know Randy covets the belt and can't wait for a shot at the gold ... and I'm more than willing to give it to him. It'll be Macho Madness going into the match, Macho Sadness coming out."

The Giant has an Open Door Policy on the belt: if you want a shot at the gold, just come sign on the dotted line.

"This is my destiny, and no one is going to stop my title reign," The Giant said. "Other wrestlers might claim to be unstoppable, but that's a farce. The Giant is wrestling's only unstoppable force. Truthfully, I don't even know how I would stop The Giant. I guess I'd probably shoot him from very far away, then hope you had time to run before he ran out of blood. Truthfully, I don't know how anyone can beat me. That's because, for someone to get beaten, they have to have a weakness, be it physically, intellectually, or (in their) intensity, something that an opponent can play off of. But I don't think I have any weaknesses."

Or does he?

Terry Taylor, the former wrestler who is now retired and working in WCW's front-office, thinks he'd stand as good a chance as anyone.

"I took The Giant from a guy who had never wrestled in his life to the WCW World Heavyweight Championship. I'm not saying that to brag; it's just fact," Taylor said. "It is a thrilling moment in my wrestling career that I can vicariously live through my student. A teacher's greatest compliment is when a student surpasses the teacher."

"But, if anyone can beat him, it's me ... because I know what he can do. I taught him everything he knows, but not everything I know. If I wrestled him, I don't know if I could beat him because I'd have to wrestle the belt away from him. It's much easier to keep the belt than it is to win it. But it'd be exciting."

Said The Giant, "Those three individuals — Terry Taylor, The Assassin and Diamond Dallas Page — were very instrumental in my growth as a wrestler. I still think Terry might be a bit frustrated with me when it comes to my aggressiveness, primarily because Terry has been a model sportsman, so he doesn't always like my style. It's not that I cheat ... I just call it improvising to win."

"There's no doubt in my mind that DDP has, in the back of his mind, what he's done for my career and would like a title shot. Knowing DDP like I do, he certainly is not one short on ego; he's so egotistical that he gives himself a high-five. So, I wouldn't be surprised if he wanted and — in time — received a title shot If DDP stepped in the ring with me in hopes of claiming something as precious as the WCW World Heavyweight Championship belt, I'd leave the ring scattered in DDP's glitter."

Another refs view

Here is referee Nick Patrick's "take" on several WCW superstars:

BELFAST BRUISER DAVE "FIT" FINLAY

"It's like he's on a mission out there. There's no doubt in my mind that he'd smack a referee, such as myself, if we got in his way."

MENG

"Very intense ... he has good ring-entrance music."

HULK HOGAN

"When Hulk Hogan hit me in the head with a chair several months ago, it was the last thing I ever expected, particularly because we've gotten along very well since he arrived in WCW.

"Hulk also is a very intense wrestler, especially before a match. It truly is amazing how the people go crazy when he's out there."

THE ARMSTRONGS

"They're good friends."

For more on referee Patrick, read Mean Gene Okerlund's column on PAGE 47

Green Bloods

Is there unrest in the camp of The Blue Bloods? There seems to be a lot of wrangling behind the scenes between Earl Robert Eaton and Squire David Taylor as to who should partner Lord Steven Regal as the number two Blue Blood.

Squire David recently moved ahead of Eaton in this position when he regained the British Heavyweight Championship by defeating Marty Jones in Croydon, England.

Taylor was proudly displaying the belt — which was incidentally also held by his father — in the U.S. making Eaton turn green with envy. Regal has no comment to make about the matter and dismisses it as nonsense.

IS ONOO'S EMPIRE CRACKING

The Blue Bloods aren't the only international competitors in WCW who appear to be having trouble in the ranks. Recently Jushin 'Thunder' Liger has openly disobeyed his paymaster Sonny Onoo by refusing to double team opponents and fight unfairly.

When Liger lost to Malenko at Monday Nitro, Onoo could not conceal his disgust and stormed off leaving his defeated man alone in the ring.

Onoo told us, "There is only one way to do things and that is my way. If Liger doesn't want to carry out my bidding, then he should get out ... I've no time for losers anyway."

Taylor made again

Is Terry Taylor planning a return to active wrestling?

Quite possibly.

Taylor, the wrestling veteran admits he'd "like to" return to active duty — not just training others at the WCW Power Plant in Atlanta.

"I think I have a lot of thrills still in me," he said. "I've been out of active wrestling for two years, so I'm not one of these guys who's road weary. I've only had three or four matches in the past two years, and am quite confident I could have a strong showing if I returned."

HOG WILD

As part of the 56th Annual Strugis Rally & Races event, 'the granddaddy of all motorcycle events,' WCW will be staging their Hog Wild pay-per-view at Sturgis, South Dakota on Saturday, August 10th.

Over 300,000 people are expected to turn out in Sturgis for the rally this year and among then will be the contingent of WCW wrestlers who own Harley-Davidsons.

Hulk Hogan owns over a dozen Harley's and he is joined as a HOG (Harley Owners Group) by Eric Bischoff, The Booty Man, Sting, Madusa, Rick & Scott Steiner, Road Warriors and our own magazine editor Colin Bowman.

This is one event not to be missed so circle the date on your calendar now.

CRUISERWEIGHT NEWS

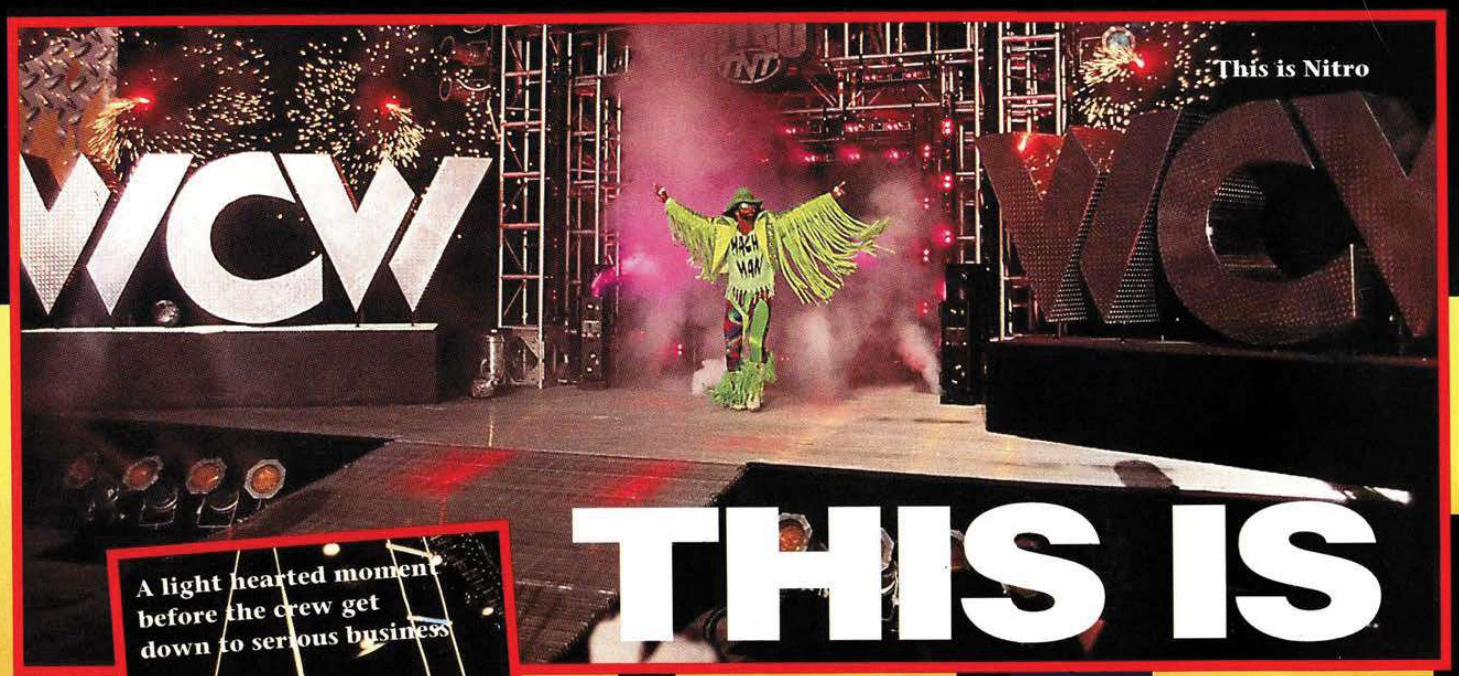
The new Cruiserweight division in WCW has already caught the imagination of the wrestling public. Shinjiro Ohtani from New Japan became the first winner of the title when he took advantage of his hometown roots to defeat Brad Armstrong in Tokyo. However his triumph was short-lived when Dean Malenko pinned him for the belt during the mid-May edition of WCW Worldwide.

Malenko cannot afford to rest on his laurels as the challengers are lining up including Eddie Guerrero, Alex Wright, Brad Armstrong, Jushin Liger and J.L.

WCW EVENT NEWS

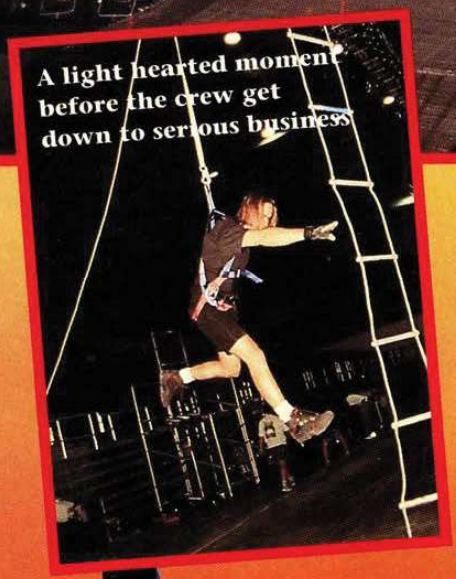
Here are the dates of WCW's upcoming major events:

July 7, 1996 **Bash at the Beach**
August 10, 1996 **Hog wild**
August 15, 1996 **Clash of the Champions**
September 15, 1996 **Fall Brawl**
October 27, 1996 **Halloween Havoc**
November 24, 1996 **World War 3**
December 29, 1996 **Starrcade**

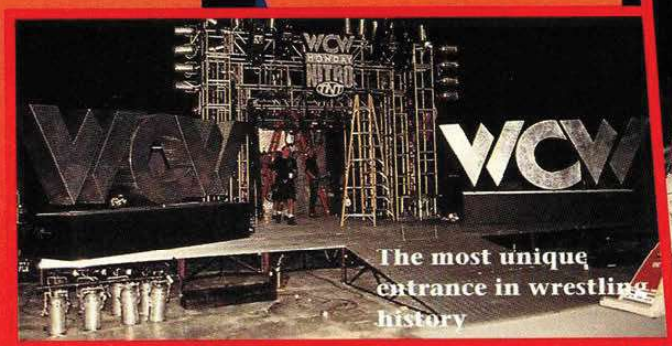


This is Nitro

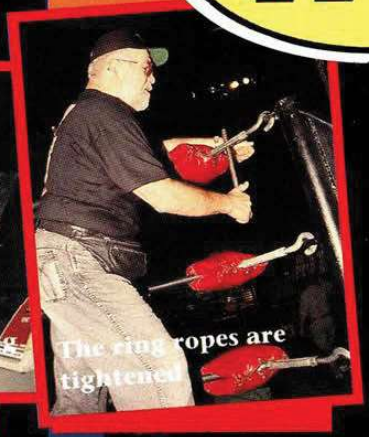
THIS IS NITRO



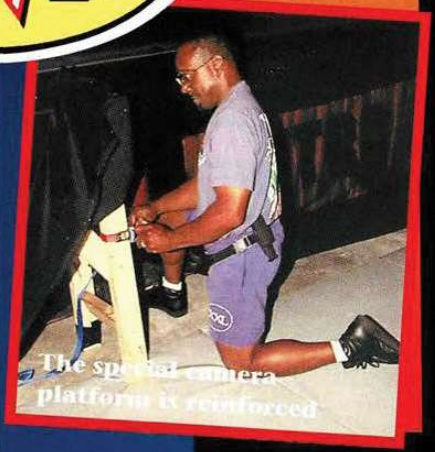
A light hearted moment before the crew get down to serious business



The most unique entrance in wrestling history



The ring ropes are tightened



The special camera platform is reinforced

Coming from a wrestling family, David Crockett has seen just about everything this sport has to offer. And he's done just about everything as well, from ring labor to serving as a ticket taker, concession salesman, announcer, broadcaster, promoter and, yep, even a wrestler, against the likes of Ole Anderson and The Alaskans, among others. He's been a part of WCW since Day One eight years ago and his roots stem deep into the NWA days. He was there when monthly pay-per-views were simply a concept, one which most of his colleagues called crazy despite Crockett's drive. And he was there when the organization held Saturday morning television taping sessions — for airing that evening — at a small Atlanta studio (Techwood) in front of about 75 faithful fans.

So, when WCW announced last summer that it would debut a new, weekly, live program (Monday Nitro; 9 p.m. TNT), it was no surprise Crockett would be the one calling the shots — from a production standpoint, that is. Crockett, after all, is WCW's vice-president of TV production, a Heavyweight Champion of Production if there ever was one.

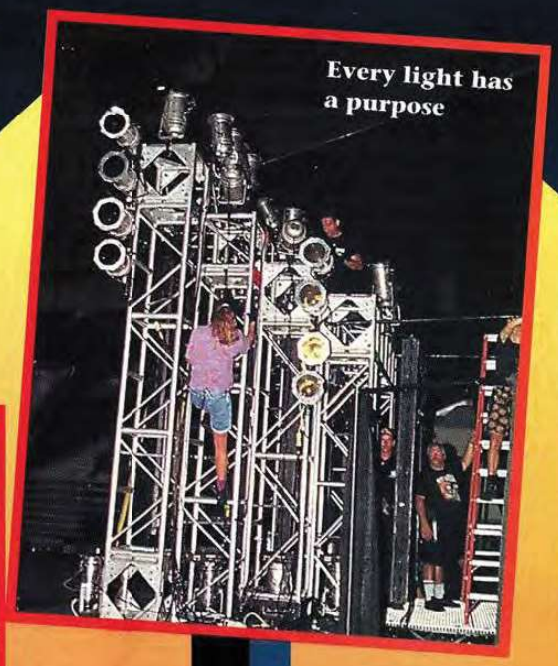
"It's been a long road, a tough and tiresome road at times, but definitely a good road," said Crockett, who logs several hundred-thousand miles annually, not to mention countless nights in hotel rooms across America.

"Every Monday, Nitro is a major live production with the quality of a pay-per-view ... and you're getting it for free. That's amazing when you think about it. Especially when I think about where the sport of wrestling has been."

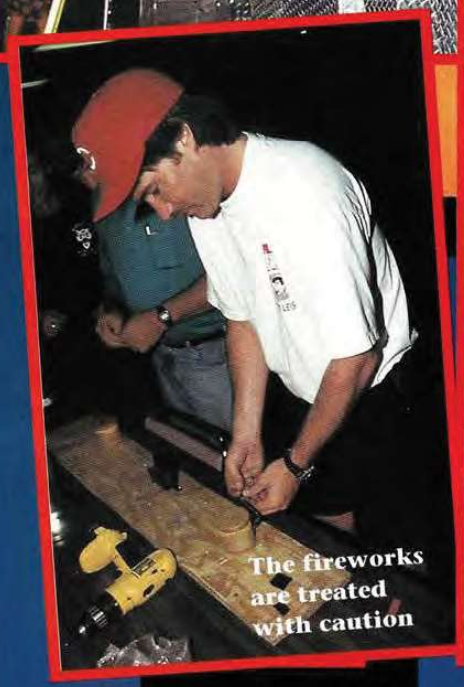
Craig Leathers who is the Director of all WCW's television programs, rates Nitro as the pinnacle of his career to date. "A lot of Nitro's

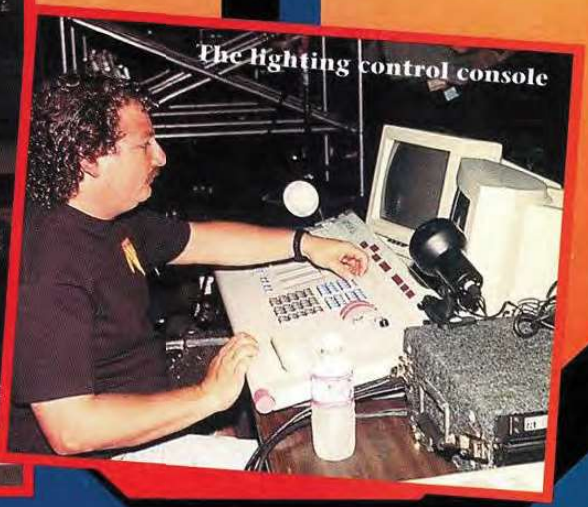
It has been described as the hottest hour of wrestling on TV, but do you know how many hours and people are involved in bringing it to you? Read on and find out all the facts, they will astound you.

Everything has to look perfect


Every light has a purpose

It's a long way down


The fireworks are treated with caution

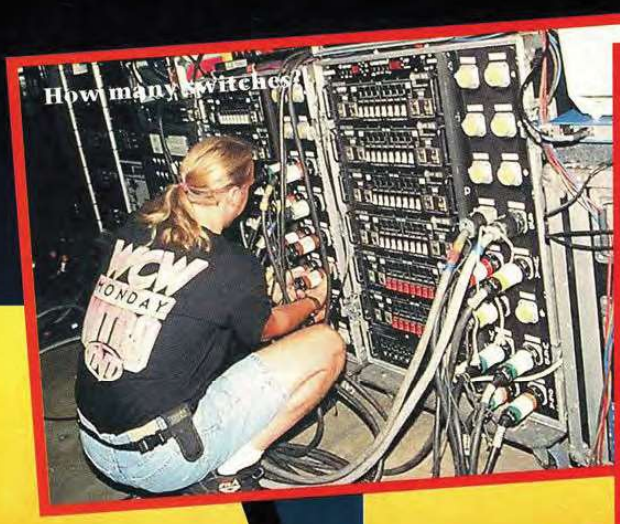

The lighting control console

success is down to the people who work behind the scenes, creating and lighting the set and making sure all the camera angles are covered. I'd like to say that we are prepared for every eventuality and hopefully we are, but it's that unpredictability of live television that really gets the adrenaline flowing and makes Nitro a ratings winner."

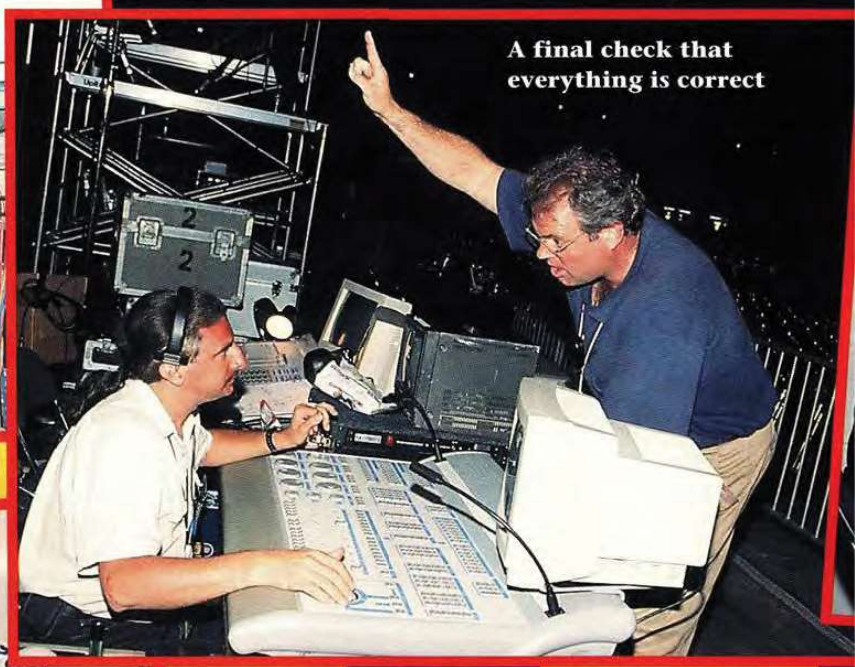
Crockett heads WCW's Nitro Crew, a 150-member team of stagehands, carpenters, electricians, cameramen, editors and the like. It is the unit that brings home Nitro from a different arena somewhere here in America each week.

"We go into Nitro each and every week knowing that things are going to come up that we hadn't planned for, things that must be taken care of. So, you must react and just get things taken care of. Maybe it's finding an available car for last-minute needs, a waiter to serve finger-food or simply special seats. That's why I like to view my job as simple crisis management," Crockett said. "Nitro is a television program seen weekly by several million people, so, yes, it is a huge production. I guess the best thing to compare it to is a concert, like, say, Garth Brooks. However, the main difference is, Garth's show basically is the the same show night in, night out, whereas Nitro is different each and every Monday night; it's never the same. What you plan for one week will be completely different the following week."

To that, the Nitro Crew puts in over 20 hours of preparation BEFORE the show even goes on the air, starting at 1 p.m. the day before the event. That's when Crockett & Co., unload three trucks filled with more than five miles of cable (for distribution throughout the building), about 2,000 special lights and any number of other technical gadgets and goodies.

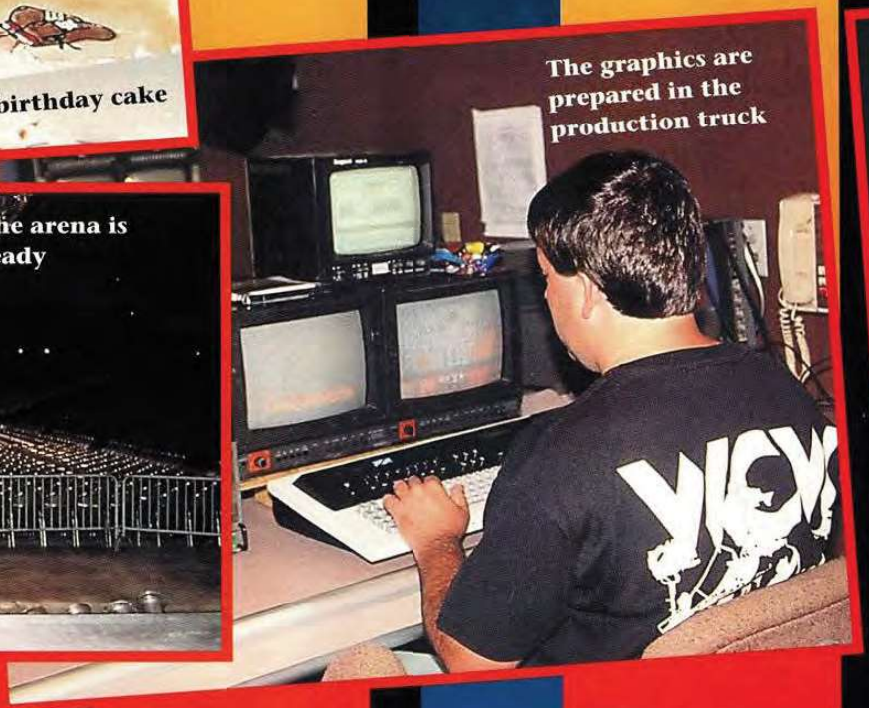


How many switches?


A final check that everything is correct

Brian Knobs' birthday cake

The arena is ready



The graphics are prepared in the production truck

"We travel with a power truck, carrying a generator that has enough power for the whole building just in case the building's power goes down. In fact, our generator has enough power to supply a small town. And, yes, we have had to use it, although, obviously, we never want to," Crockett said. "In terms of lighting, we really are no different than the Garth Brooks concert; we have that much pyro, smoke, moving lights, etc."

"It is, as I've said, a major production extravaganza and, remember, it's each and every week that we're doing this. And, to make things a bit more tricky, it's live ... and anything can happen when you're live."

The Crew works until about 9 each Sunday night, then returns to the arena at 9 Monday morning.

"I still remember the day (WCW Senior Vice President) Eric (Bischoff) came to me with the idea of Nitro ... I thought it was a great one because we do live programming better than anyone else; no one can touch us," Crockett said.

Initially, though, Nitro was to be live only every other week; that — due to its popularity of being live — never materialized.

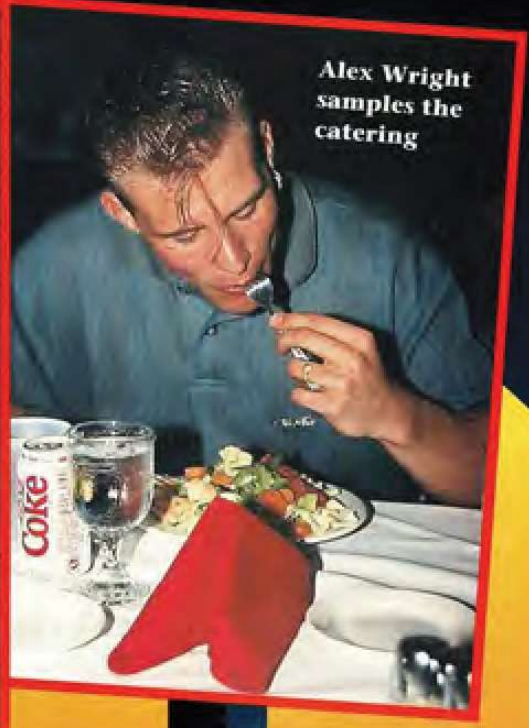
"If there's any way possible to do a program live, we'll do it."

Nitro launched last September to a sensational response at the Mall of America in Minneapolis. Since then, the show has originated from such locales as Chicago, Cleveland, Canton, Charlotte, Denver, Daytona and Las Vegas.

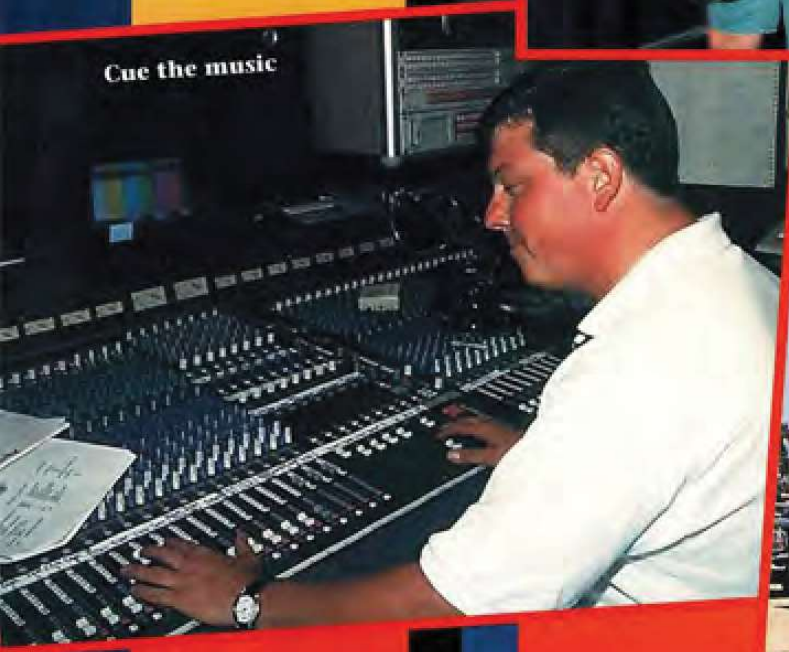
"There are just a lot of hard working individuals dedicated to bringing fans the best possible show each and every week, and they do their work without a lot of recognition and praise," he said. "It takes a very unique, very special individual to work on the Nitro

Ring announcer Penzer checks his facts

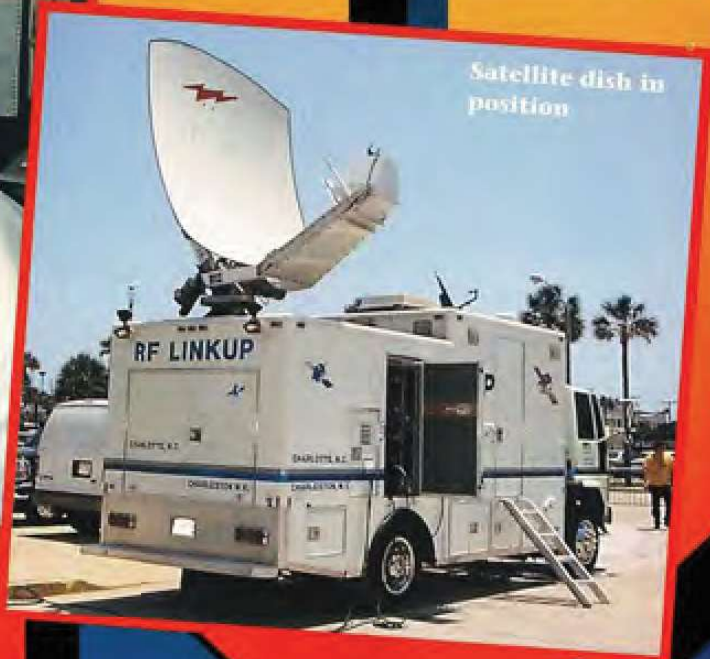
The cameras are prepared



Alex Wright samples the catering



Cue the music



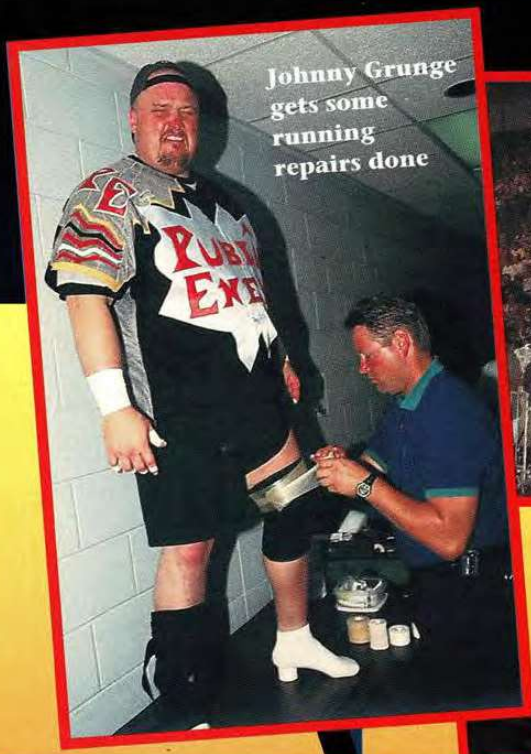
Satellite dish in position

Crew. The guys might moan and groan at times, but they get the job done and they do it with a lot of pride."

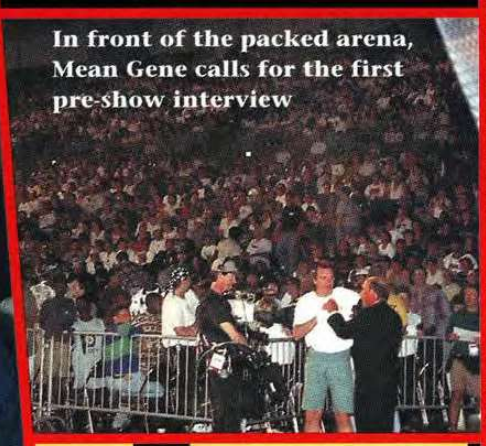
"The Crew is very critical of itself. There's never a perfect show from a production standpoint; each one can always be better. Where does our satisfaction come from? Well, that's simple: the Tuesday (Nielsen) ratings, when we get the approval of the fans."

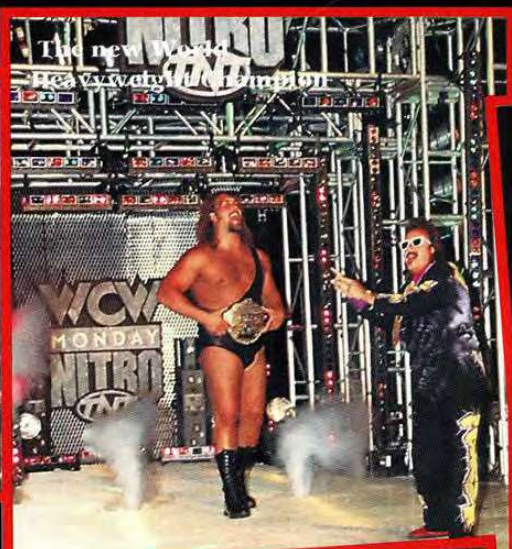
So who is responsible for bringing you Nitro each week? Here are the key players:

David Crockett, VP of TV production; Craig Leathers, Director; Keith Mitchell & Tony Schiavone, Supervising Producers; Rick Fansher, Technical Director; Will Byrd, Nitro Production Manager; Jeff Bornstein, Lighting Designer; Ricky Lassiter, PXP Camera; Greg Gunn, Tight Camera; Al Eastman, Skeeter Brawley & Jackie Crockett, Handheld Cameras; Rick Little, Cam-mate Camera; Mike Navage, Beauty Camera; Bill Tinsley, Set Camera; Tim Snyder, Steadicam; Earney Williams, MTN Engineer; Hans Muster, Video Engineer; Joe Sparacino, Audio Engineer; Paul Bush & George Mashonas, Audio II; David Penzer, Ring Announcer; Rob Wright, Tape A.D.; Mike Miller & Bill Thomas, Tape Operators; Woody Kearce & Annette Yother, Stage Managers; Mark Sanders, Truck A.D.; Darwin Conort, Cam-mate Assist; Wes Benton, Steadicam Assist; Zane Bressloff, Event Promoter; Steve Camp, TBS SAT; Frank Santoro, Gary Guberman, Kevin Webb, Steve Gertsman, John Douce, Mike Shipman, Lighting; Mike Satrazemis & Dan Winkowski, Generators; Al Smith, Audio; Ed Arbon, Cliff Bonds, Steve McKay, Studio Tape Operation; Phil Proctor & Kemper Rogers, Editors; Darrell Wofford, Traffic; Gordon Nelson & Klondike Bill, Ring

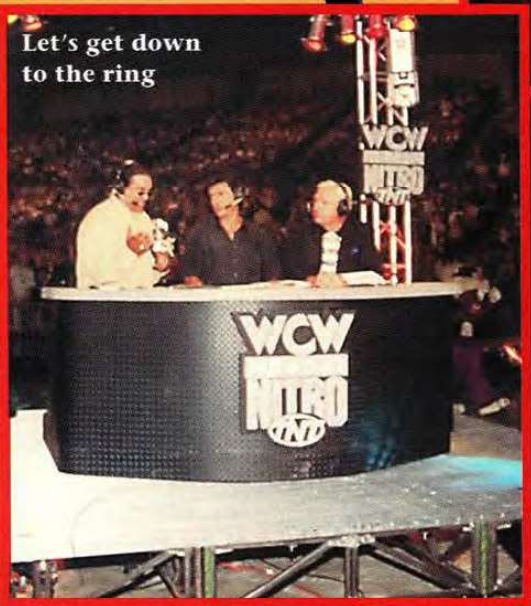


Johnny Grunge gets some running repairs done


In front of the packed arena, Mean Gene calls for the first pre-show interview



The new World Heavyweight Champion



Let's get down to the ring

Hugh Morrus tempts fate

Macho Man dishes it out

Crew; Todd Hinton, Engineer; Bob Bresler, Jason Douglas, Michael Bayans, Production Assistants; Neal Pruitt, Kip Bissell, Christine Johnson, Diane Dovijak, Producers; Joyce Atkinson, Unit Manager; Shirlene Ross, Sr. Production Co-ordinator; Donnie Carrell, Rigger; Keith Hellebrand, Pyro; Pat Knowles, Gaffer; Moses Williams & William Alfaro, Stage; Rick Morganelli, Scenic; Eric Bischoff, Bobby Heenan, Steve McMichael, Announcers; Mean Gene Okerlund, Interviews.

And you also can add TV mogul Ted Turner to that list.

"If it were not for Ted Turner, Nitro would not happen; it's that simple. So, yes, we are all very thankful to Ted Turner," Crockett said.

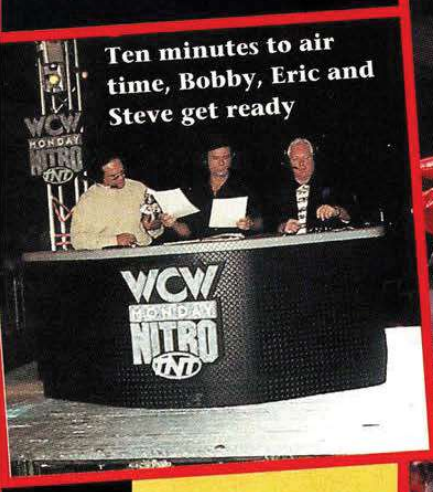
"There were a lot of people who thought we could not sustain, ratings wise, a live Monday Nitro. They felt it would affect our other television shows, such as WCW Saturday Night. But it certainly has. In fact, we have built a new, larger audience via Nitro. There's a lot of cross-advertising now involved with all of our shows, and Nitro also has helped (attendance) at our arena shows."

To fully appreciate the efforts of WCW's Monday Nitro Crew, WCW Magazine publisher Colin Bowman (with camera in hand) and executive editor Ross Forman (with pen and paper) joined The Crew May 5-6 at the Ocean Center in Daytona, Fla., as the group prepped for yet another mega-show.

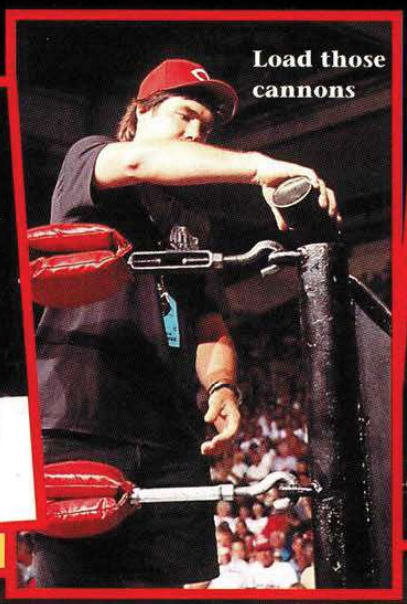
SUNDAY

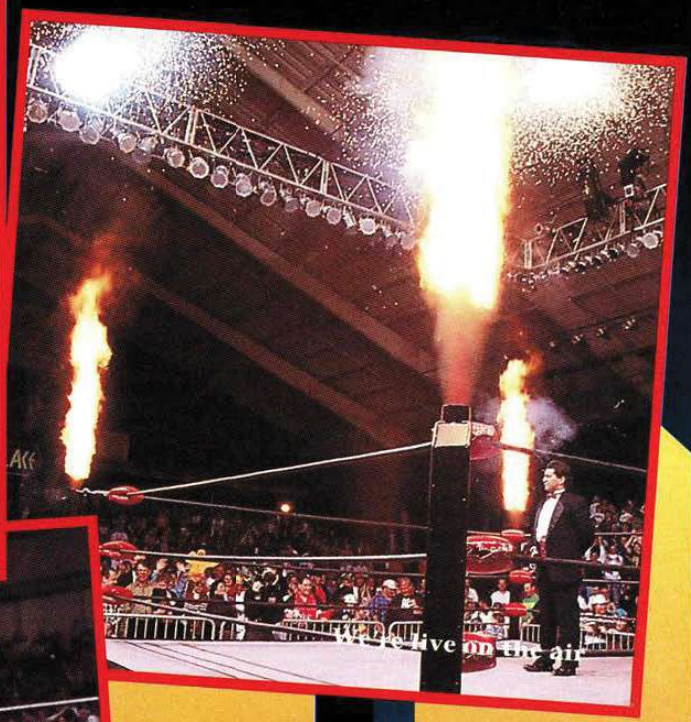
12:47 p.m.

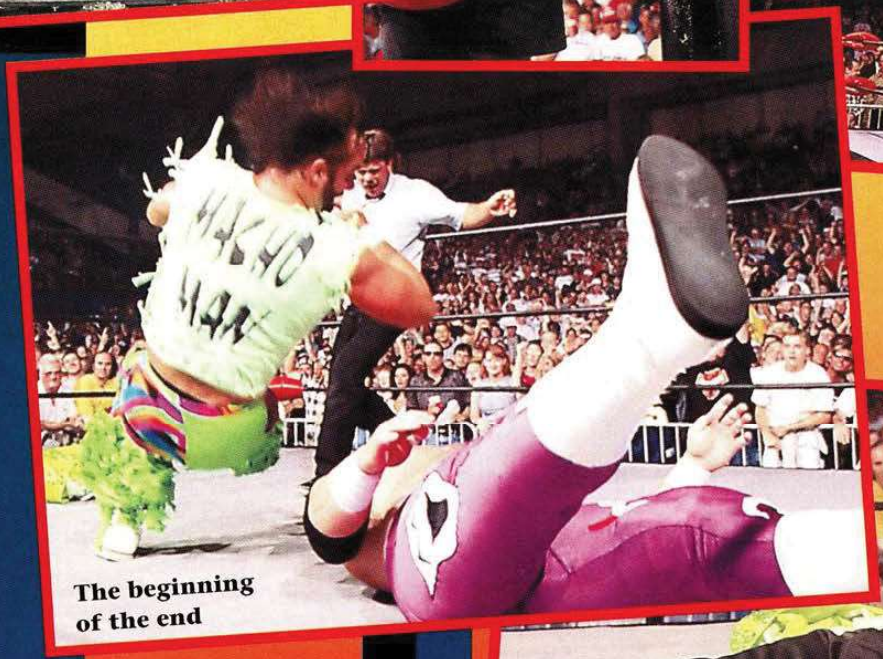
WCW's production trucks arrive at the building; their horns are sounded and, shortly thereafter, a stream of Crew members exit the building and begin unloading.

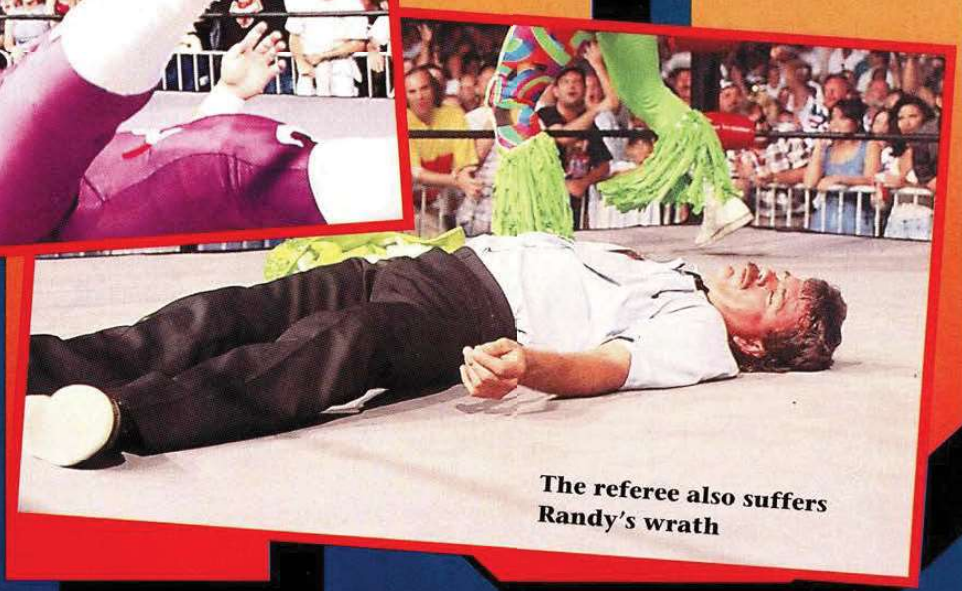


Ten minutes to air time, Bobby, Eric and Steve get ready


Load those cannons


We're live on the air


The beginning of the end


The referee also suffers Randy's wrath

2:25 p.m.
The first truck is emptied; The Crew now shifts to the lighting truck.

3:02 p.m.
The generator truck is unloaded.

3:20 - 4:20 p.m.
Miscellaneous chores are fulfilled, such as:

* Draping is strategically placed around the building;
* VIP seats are covered with 'Do Not Use' signs;

8:39 p.m.
The Crew calls it a night.

MONDAY

9 a.m.
Cold breakfast is served — at the arena. About 25 crew members are present.

9:22 p.m.
The generator is on call to test power.

11 a.m.
The all-important TV truck is parked.

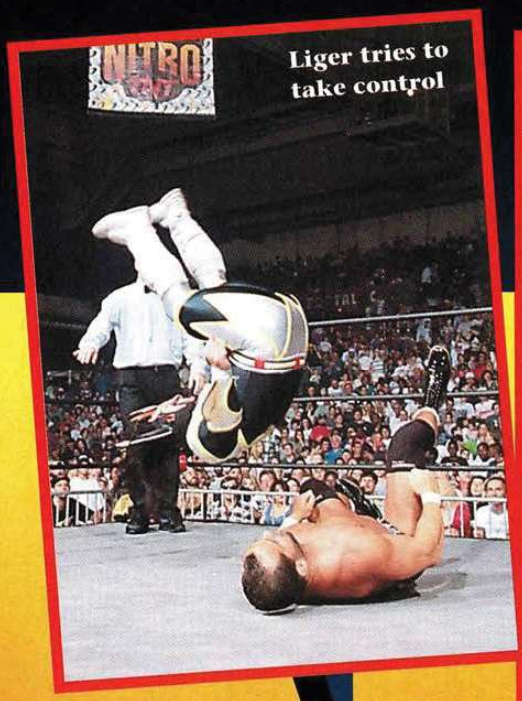
11:30 a.m.
Draping throughout the building is completed.

12:44 p.m.
Load in the TV truck.

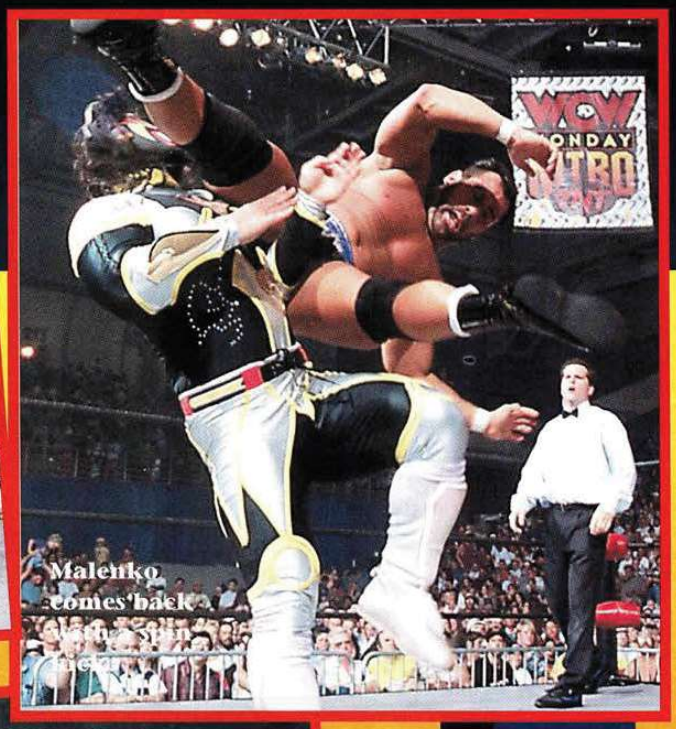
2 p.m.
Dinner table for wrestlers is set up. The interview room is set up.

2:13 p.m.
Eric Bischoff's dressing room is labeled.

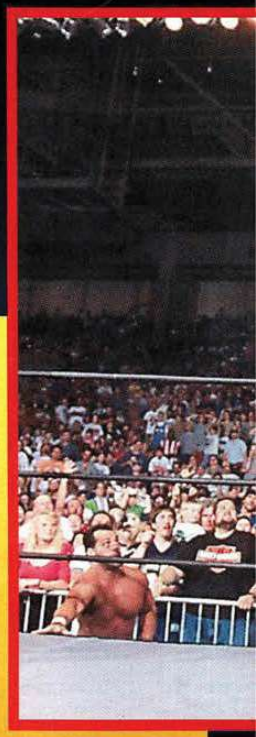
2:15 p.m.
Wrestlers arrive.

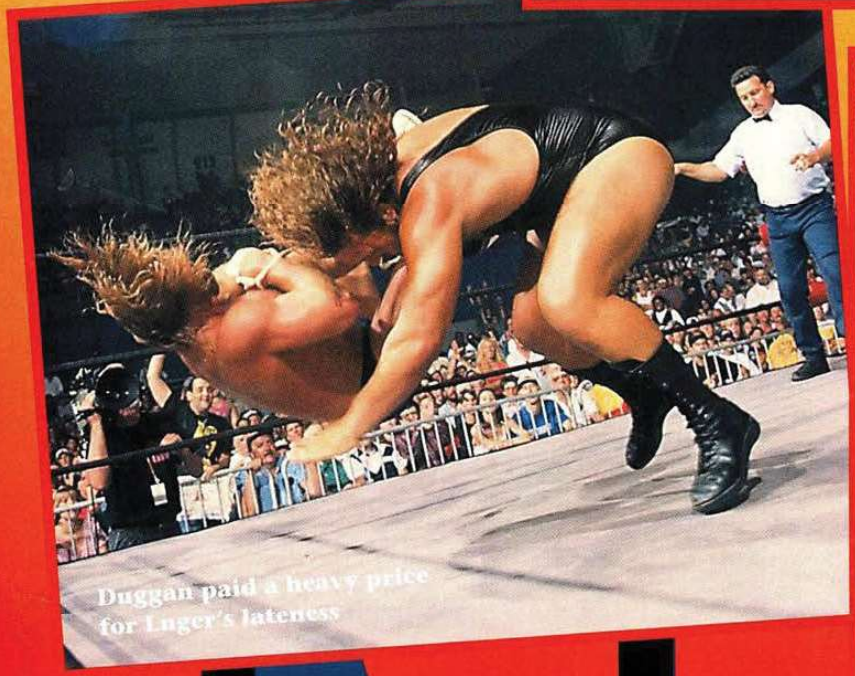


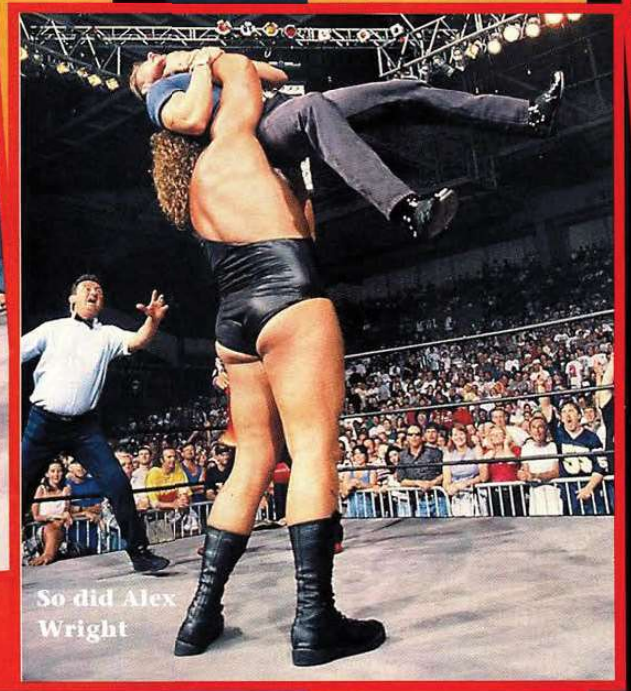
Liger tries to take control



Malenko comes back with a spin kick




Duggan paid a heavy price for Luger's lateness


So did Alex Wright

2:30 p.m.
Wrestlers and Crew members eat.

3 p.m.
Back-up power is tested. Jerry Sags presents his partner Brian Knobs with a huge birthday cake which the pair of them devour.

3 - 5:30 p.m.
The Crew checks, re-check and triple-checks each and every element of the equipment. Meanwhile backstage Mean Gene is taping interviews with several wrestlers. Head Athletic Trainer Chuck Tache is busy taping up wrestlers and checking on any injuries.

5:00 p.m.
Doors open, fans flock to the merchandise stands.

6:00 p.m.
Matches begin.

6:30 p.m.
Mean Gene Okerlund conducts a promotional interview that airs live on TNT.

7 p.m.
Nitro goes live across America.. Normally Nitro airs at 9 p.m. ET, live on TNT but due to the NBA play-offs it ran at this special timeslot in May.

8 p.m.
Nitro ends, although there are still three more matches for the in-person attendees.

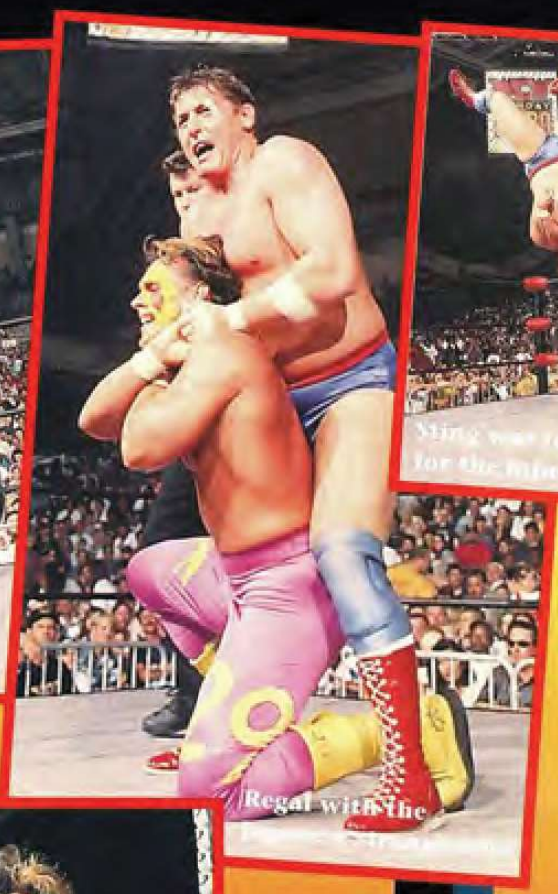
8:58 p.m.
Wrestling action ends.

8:59 p.m.
Tear-down of the ring, truss, etc., begins.

TUESDAY
1:07 a.m.
Tear-down ends.
Final Crew member leaves for hotel.

High flying action all the way

Malenko sets up another important win

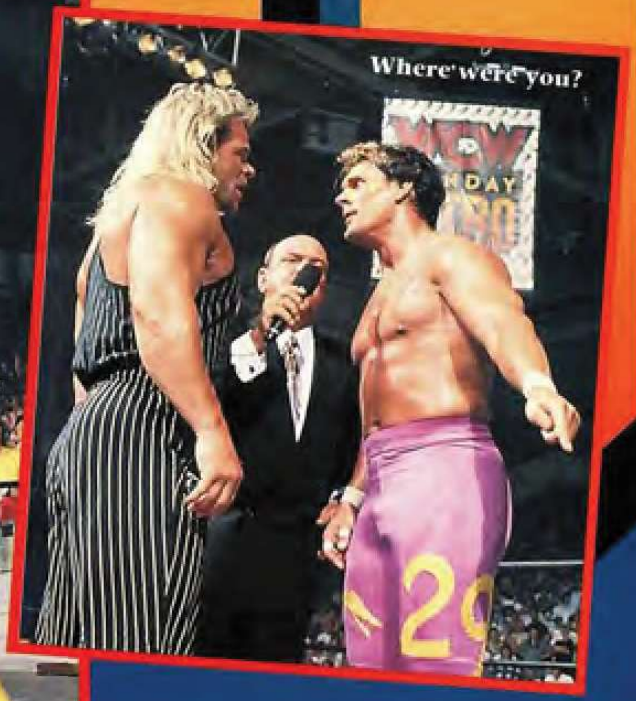


Regal with the

Sting was too powerful for the injured Hogan

Flair tried to get a piece of the action

But it was Sting who prevailed



Where were you?

And if you thought things couldn't get any better, think again ... Nitro is now the hottest TWO hours of wrestling on TV!

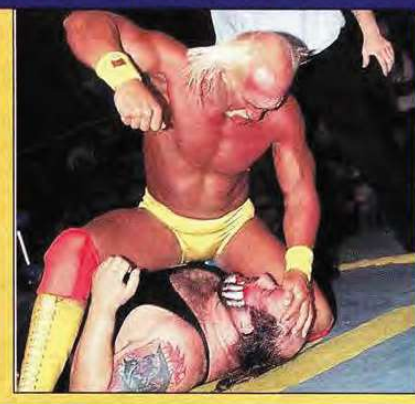
TAG Talk

In the USA or Canada, write to: Tag Talk, WCW Magazine, One CNN Center, Box No.105366, Atlanta, GA30348-5366
In the UK or Ireland, write to: Tag Talk, WCW Magazine, Cell Publishing, 28/30 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND
or send your comments to us via E-Mail.Our addresses are WCWMAG@cix.compulink.co.uk or WCWMAG@aol.com

HULKAMANIA AGAIN

Hulkamania is running wild again! The sleeping giant that was dormant for so long in the Hulkster is now awake and hungrier than ever. He beat Arn Anderson and Kevin Sullivan single-handedly and now is set for a run at the WCW title again. If I was The Giant, I'd be quaking in my boots.

Damon Pettit, Stonehaven, England



Little Rock ROCKED

Thank you WCW for coming to Little Rock. I drove 4 hours to watch "The Big Boys Play," and it was well worth it. Please come back soon. I would also like to hear from WCW fans all over the world. I am 27-years old and my favorites are Sting, Lex Luger, Randy Savage and the American Males.

Tammy Wilkins, Route 1 Box 287-C, Gassville, Arkansas 72635

Wild action preferred

I loved the six man, double strap match, it's just a shame my favorites the Four Horsemen did not win it. I love WCW's policy of bringing fans the most innovative matches imaginable, keep it up. I think the Road Warriors will be the next tag team champs, Sting and Lex are way too weak to overcome them.

Ardal Diaz, Bayonne, NJ

Giant FAN

I am so impressed with The Giant that I just had to let him know he has at least one fan. The word potential was written to describe him. He can rule forever.

Kristine Connell, Hurley, WI

Steinerized

I was shocked to see the return of the Steiners to WCW, but now they are back I can see it won't be long before the tag belts are back around their waists. Sting & Lex must be worried.

Bruce Gray, Orlando, FL

HEENAN IS STUPID

Bobby Heenan must be the stupidest person in wrestling today. How can he cheer for The Giant, Ric Flair and Arn Anderson when there are great stars like Hogan, Sting, Booty Man and Savage in WCW.

Brandon Daly, Rochester, NY

One ref's enough

I'm sick of hearing about how there should be two referees in a tag match. If we had two referees, their wouldn't be any cheap shots or interference. It would just be a boring match. That isn't what I want. I want chaos and mayhem ... most fans do.

Matt Spickard, Harrison, TN

THUMBS UP

Thumbs up to The Giant. He knew what he wanted and he got it, even though Flair was an ally of the Dungeon of Doom. He has served notice on WCW and doesn't need help from anyone. Jimmy Hart had better not cross The Giant or he's likely to end up as a stain on the canvas.

J Williams, Oxford, NY

Sting & Hulk

Are Sting and Hulk Hogan still friends or has Lex Luger turned his friend against the Mega Powers?

Robert Mitchell, Fort Collins, CO

Sting assures us that Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage are still two of his closest friends. He's just been busy defending the Tag Team titles and challenging for the World title to hang with them as much as he wants to. C.B.

Tag team wrestling is hot

Look at the teams in WCW today: The Steiners, Road Warriors, Sting and Lex, Public Enemy and Nasty Boys. Any of them would be worthy WCW World Tag Team Champions. However there is only one title and so many teams so isn't it time to re-instate the WCW US Tag Team Championship. You could hold the tag team tournament to end all tournaments. Please consider this request.

Jeffery Beau, Winner, NY

TABLE smashing

I really like Public Enemy, when they throw people on to the tables and somersault through them. I used to channel surf on a Monday night, but now I'm hooked on Nitro. I'm looking forward to seeing your show when you return to the North East.

Charlie Depoalo, Bayonne, NJ

FAIR TO FLAIR

I am tired of hearing all of the stupid fans who boo Ric Flair on his way to ringside. Don't they realize this man is a legend. The 13 World titles he has won entitles him to the respect of every wrestling fan. He is a winner and those fans who don't respect him are pathetic losers. The next time Flair makes his way to ringside the fans should stand and give him the ovation he deserves. Love him or hate him he is still the best thing going today.

Alison Lotocki, Jackson Hts, NY

FRIENDS REQUIRED

I am a lonely 15-year old girl who is the only wrestling fan in my school. I like Lex Luger and Sting and would like to hear from WCW fans in America and Canada.

Emma Louise Yates, 91 Park Rd,
Ellesmere Port, South Wirral,
ENGLAND L6S 0DG

My favorite wrestlers are The Four Horsemen, Lex Luger and Sting. I want to hear from fans in the US and overseas, so get writing soon.

Brett Elmore, Rt.11 Box 56, Jasper,
AL35501

Ban Regal

What gives Lord Steven Regal the right to be at ringside while the other Blue Bloods are wrestling. He isn't a manager. He doesn't have a manager's license, so he shouldn't be there. The officials should be braver and send him back to the locker room.

Jeff Camp, Elida, OH

Apologies

I would like to apologize on behalf of all the wrestling fans in the North East for the abuse our regional promotion has been dishing out to Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. It is just jealousy. Hulk Rules, Randy Rocks and Nitro is greatest TV show on the planet. I hope Hulk and Randy come back and see us soon.

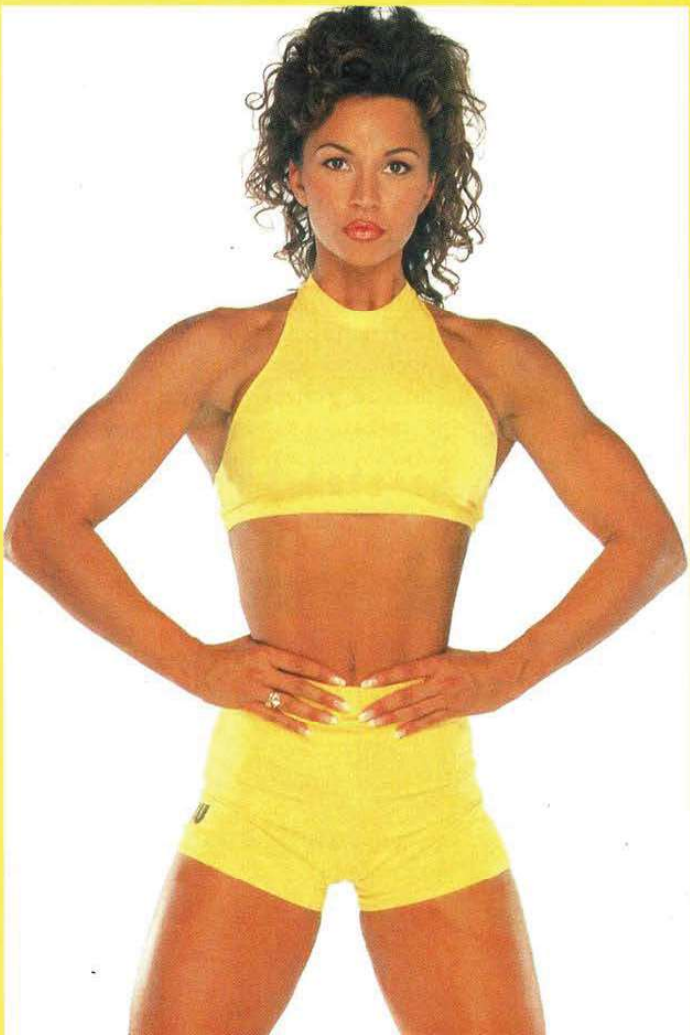
Mike Schillace, Auburn, NY

Congratulations

WCW Magazine is the best I have ever read. I have only recently started watching WCW on cable and it is the best wrestling I have seen in years. I would like to say that I have never read a wrestling magazine with so many perceptive comments and thought provoking remarks made about up and coming wrestlers such as Malenko and Guerrero. Also the regular features such as The Regal Decree and Expert Assessment make for an unmissable read. WCW Magazine really proves that WCW has ALL the muscle AND the brains which cannot be matched anywhere. WCW provides more competition, more action and more wrestling than anywhere in the world.

S. Davies, Elland, England

the BOOTY BABE gettin



You would have to have spent your entire life in a monastery if the sight of Kimberly, the Booty Babe fails to raise your temperature by several degrees. She is the most beautiful woman in wrestling, blessed with a great body and a mind to match.

It is obvious that Kimberly takes great pride in her appearance and we decided to ask her how she keeps herself in shape, and if there is any hope for the less physically gifted among us?

Kim agreed to an interview, but suggested that we go for a workout first and then grab a bite for lunch.

We met at Sting and Lex's Main Event Gym in Atlanta and she kicks butt for 2 hours. We then head off to a friendly neighborhood cafe and over a snack of grilled chicken and vegetables we begin. As usual when you start Kim on a subject, it's difficult to get her to stop.

Well Kim, we think you look better than ever. You look really happy and invigorated.

"I'm almost always invigorated after a workout," she began, "especially if everything goes really well. If it all falls into place at the end you can't help but feeling great about yourself. You just can't beat a workout ... the motivating, jammin' tunes; a bright, cool looking outfit; meditation; and a gym filled with hot lookin' booties!"

She continued, "I have always been active, but in a non-competitive

e BE ng fit

KIMS FITNESS TIPS

- Make exercise a long-term habit.
- Find workouts you enjoy, if you get bored, change it.
- Be habitual, but not obsessive.
- Take it slow, form a long-term plan, perhaps even two years ahead. Nothing can be achieved overnight.
- Eat properly and follow these simple rules:
- Cut out all fried food;
- Work on bad fats (animal fat, then vegetable fats);
- Work on sugar.

"It is very important that you stay focused and surround yourself with positive, 'can do' people. If you slip up, pick yourself up and move on! Good luck."

way. Growing up, team sports (baseball, volleyball) gave way to individual hobbies (horse riding, skating and gymnastics) and eventually spectating and cheering on my boyfriends. Although there is nothing wrong with that, I often wish I had pursued my own sport's interests. It probably would have put me in a better position to handle the mental challenges I would face during my adult life. It would also have enhanced my self-esteem, something many women have difficulty with."

Unfortunately most women are just like me, and have bought into the myth that women's sports are unimportant, even unfeminine, I now know that this is a fallacy and I strongly disagree."

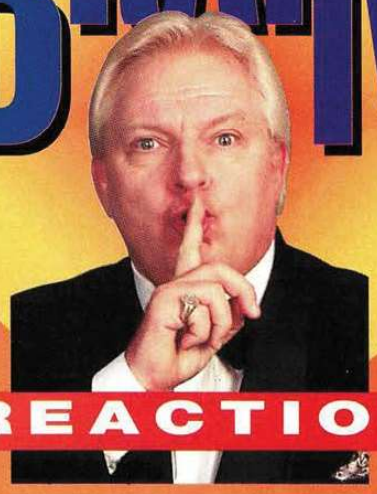
"I think one of the biggest reasons that I put with DDP's shenanigans was that my self-esteem was low, I literally felt like a doll! Just a prop with no importance that no one respected. Of course DDP saw this and was able to capitilize on it."

"The major turning point in my life came when I was able to love myself for the strong and confidant woman I had become. With DDP out of my life I was able to relax and laugh. The key is not to take life too seriously. Then like a miracle, along came the Booty Man. Someone who shared my sense of humor and carefree lifestyle. It all goes to prove that once you are physically and emotionally fit you can change your whole life!"

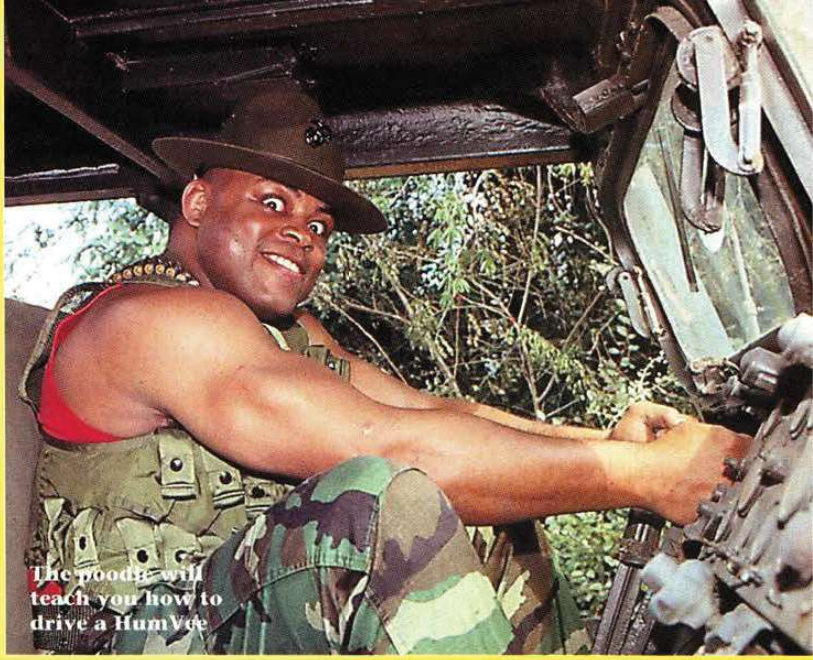
"In a roundabout fashion — and apologies if I rambled on — this brings me to the whole point of this discussion ... getting fit. It's as much a mental process as a physical one. And it doesn't happen overnight."

"When you decide that you want to reach a particular goal, you have to first set into your mind exactly how you are going to approach and then execute your strategy. I set long-term goals for myself and then re-evaluate them periodically."

BRAIN REACTION



Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.
All the views expressed are his and his alone!



The poodle will teach you how to drive a HumVee

Colin Bowman has gone nuts! Yep, Colin Bowman, the editor of WCW Magazine, has lost all touch with reality. Maybe it's due to the British water he drinks, or that foreign air, or maybe because of his barber — who is named Stevie, and that's no wonder. Colin's insanity can be explained with two words: Madusa, columnist! Gosh, just saying those two words together makes me — a broadcast-journalist — sick to my stomach. How much, and how, is Madusa paying Colin to be a writer, let alone a columnist.

Before I get off on a two-page tangent on Ms. Oblongota — that's Madusa's last name — let's just move on to other subjects in the WCW news ...

Randy Savage took his dog, Hercules, for a walk the other day, yet put the leash around himself. Not that that should come as a surprise.

I am sick and tired of hearing about the Chicago Bulls, that lousy team from a crime-ridden city along a murky lake. And those are the city's good points. Anyway, Michael Jordan is an average player, Scottie Pippen is a cry-baby and Dennis Rodman — or is it Dennis Rod-woman — is so strange that he makes Kevin Sullivan look sane.

I am so impressed with the "new" Diamond Dallas Page, not that I didn't like the old one. After all, DDP was a member of the Gold Club in 1995. So, with his new benefactor over-seeing the cigar-chomping kid, I'm sure he'll be back in the winner's circle rather quickly. Bank on it.

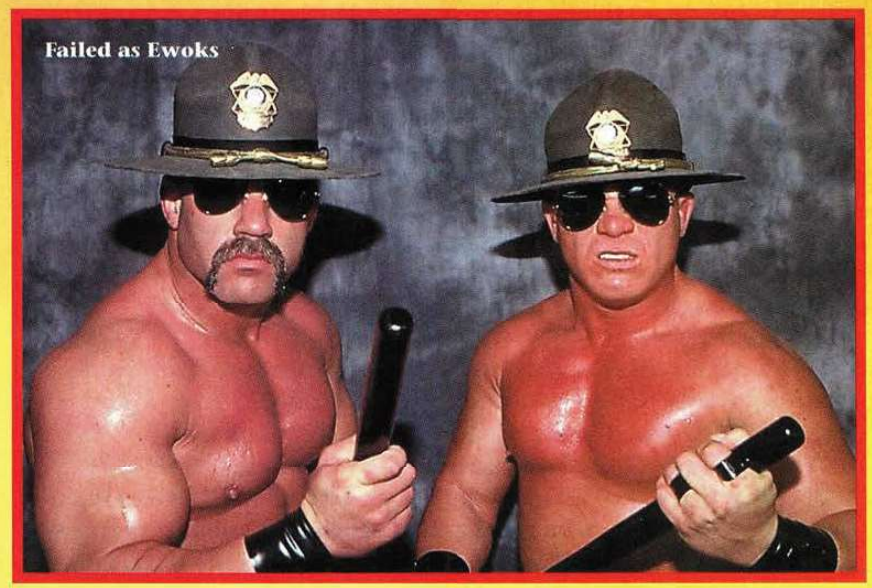
Another thing you can take to the bank is, there's trouble brewing among The Blue Bloods. I can't put my finger on it as we speak, so, my man Woody is helping me with this one because I'm certain, if things explode within this trio, it will have worldwide ramifications.

Does anyone know for sure how many Armstrong Brothers there really are? I've heard anywhere from 10-to-15, at least those are the ones who will actually admit it in public. Regardless, if you added up all of the Armstrong wins in the 1990s, it would equal ... three, maybe.

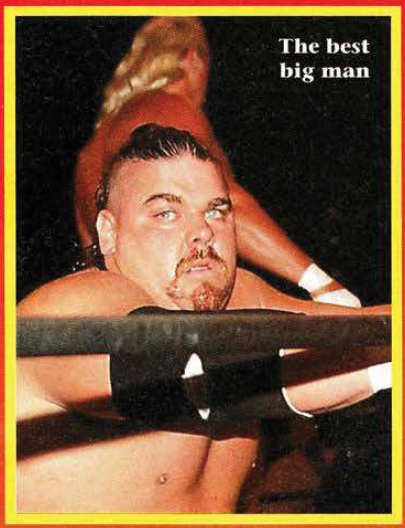
The Munchkins, I mean State Patrol recently auditioned for a part in George Lucas' long awaited "Star Wars" prequels. Unforunately they were pipped in the race to play an Ewok by Wild Cat Willie.

No one has ever claimed Big Bubba was a rocket scientist, or even a smart pig farmer. Sure, I get along fairly well with the red-neck, but I'm the first to admit that he has his flaws. Startling with intelligence. Consider this: the kid from Cobb County collected his Christmas money from the past eight years, put that with his wrestling earning pot from that same time period and, in April, made a huge purchase. A tattoo. You got it, Big Bubba had the Confederate flag and a self-portrait painted on his right bicep. As I said, this guy is about as bright as Dusty Rhodes.

Scoop: Madusa's best friend is



Failed as Ewoks


The best big man

named Ronald, and his french fries are pretty good.

It's come to my attention that Sgt. Craig Pittman is upset that I prefer to call him "Poodle" instead of "Pitbull" since he began associating with Cue-ball Teddy Long. Tough luck, maggot; deal with it! Ya know those medals that he wears ever-so-proudly around his neck nowadays, well, I looked at 'em the other day while he was in the ring and discovered they are nothing more than Japanese yen covered with aluminum foil.

Sgt. Pittman is also the proud owner of a Desert Storm HumVee, the new yuppie driving must-have. Pittman's tip to all civilian owners is watch your speed and wear a seatbelt.

Woman - a class of her own

Mark your calendars now: June 22, 1996. Sting will be performing live at Legends Field in Tampa.

Chuck Tache — WCW's head athletic trainer, known to most of the guys as "Crotch," I mean "Coach" — was vehemently upset during the WCW Worldwide tapings in Orlando because when he was recently featured in Mean Gene Okerlund's column, it only showed a picture of his back. Well, my question is: What's the problem ... that's your better side?

Also during the early-May Orlando tapings, I saw Eddie Guerrero giving away cans of jalapenos, however, I think that was a bit rash on his part. What's his family of nine going to eat for the month of July?

So Kimberly doesn't like being called The Booty Babe ... gee, will Bimbo do? And talking of Bimbo, she should study Woman and learn how to behave herself at ringside. In fact she should study Woman period, after all Woman is everything Bimbo wants to be and more.

I've got some advice for newcomer Chad Brock: SPF 200.

Talking of newcomers, what's the deal with "Hardwork" Bobby Walker? He doesn't even understand the first principal of wrestling, that the action takes place inside the ropes ... not on top of them. Still he does live up to his name, I find it hard work to watch him.

Is it Public Enemy or Public Disgrace? After all, what "normal" human would WANT to hold a garbage can?

"Das Wunderpunk" Alex Wright went out one Saturday night in Orlando and was carded ... going into a PG movie.

I don't know whether to cheer or jeer The Giant's late-April victory over "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. Sure, The Giant will be an exemplary champion, one kids certainly can look up to. But, his glory came at the hands of the "Nature Boy," one of my best friends in this sport. Either way, the WCW World Heavyweight Championship belt is in good hands.

On the subject of big men, I'm going on the record and saying that Hugh Morrus is the most incredible specimen for his size I have ever seen. That top rope moonsault of his is incredible and usually spells the end of his opponents.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage — otherwise known as 8089267067 at your local correctional facility — has embarrassed his parents ("Ancient" Angelo and "Aunt Jemima" Judy) to no end. Everytime they see him nowadays he's wearing a new pair of cuff-links, if you know what I mean.

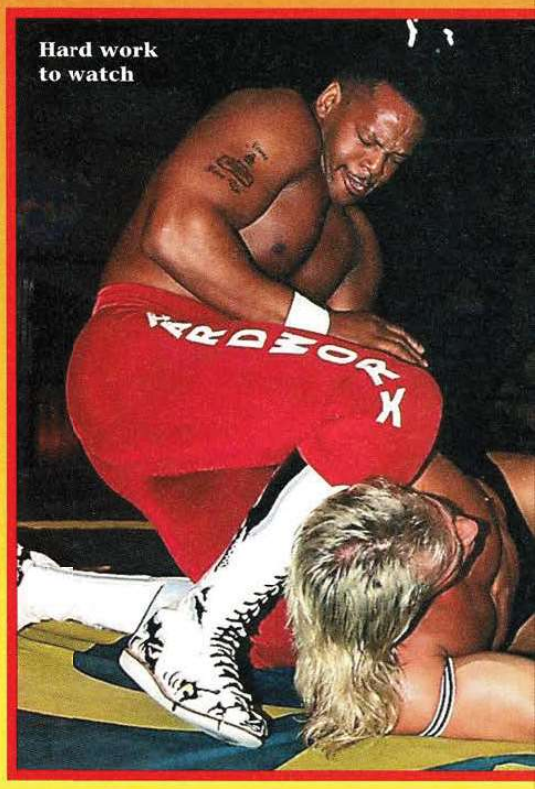
Finally, here's a memo to all of you humanoids: STOP WRITING TO ME! I don't want to hear about your financial woes due to your minimum wage job at McDonald's or how life on rented furniture is bad for your back. Tough, deal with it! This advice is particularly for Damon Hambruch of Honolulu, who has written me for the second consecutive month. Listen to Damon's letter:

Dear Bobby:

Although I was going to buy a new Corvette but I settled for a Pinto. What do you think?

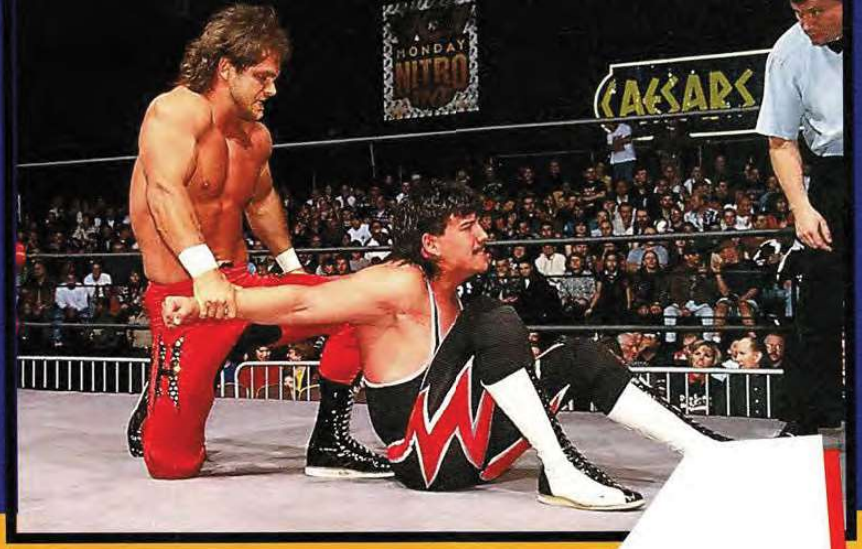
Sorry, Coconut Kid, I don't eat beanies and weanies. Good luck.

And to all of you other humanoids, good ridd ... I mean good night.


Hard work to watch

Chris Benoit sits back in a director's chair during a mid-May break in tapings for WCW Pro at the Disney-MGM Studio. He is comfortable, sipping coffee as the Florida sun glares on his unshaven face. He has the look and attitude of a winner, with a chiseled chest to boot. As usual, Benoit is awaiting his next match with a grin on his face. Is he cool? Yes. Is he cocky? Yes. Is he confident. Yes.

Does he have a reason for the attitude? You bet: he's a Horseman, one of pro wrestling's most elite fraternity.



HORSEMAN 4

"I want to let everyone know that the Four Horsemen are the elite group of wrestlers and the Four Horsemen will never die; we just continuously evolve," he said. "Right now, we've been going through some turmoil; we're in a transitional period. I don't understand why Arn Anderson affiliated himself with the Dungeon of Doom. I personally have told Arn about what kind of people Kevin Sullivan and the rest of the Dungeon members are — that we are in a higher, better class, that we don't need to rely on them in any way, shape or form."

"When I first joined the Horsemen I was told the group's strengths were it's unity, camaraderie and trust. That means that Arn should have been looking after Ric while I was away. I told him you can't trust anyone, not Jimmy Hart, not The Giant, no one, except our own kind. He knows that now and we will soon get the gold back."

"We are the Horsemen. We are the elite. We are the best."

But what really is happening with the Four Horsemen, traditionally the strongest force in wrestling? Are they about to split up? Is the turmoil concocted as a charade by the group's master, Ric Flair? Is Brian Pillman in? Is Brian Pillman out? Why did the group associate itself with the Dungeon of Doom?

So many questions, so few answers.

Ric Flair rarely speaks to the media; he often just issues prepared statements when they serve his purpose. Arn Anderson, usually the most media-friendly member, has been answering only limited questions of late. Brian Pillman is no where to be found, and his home phone has been disconnected.

That leaves Chris Benoit, the Canadian member of the clan who often says he prefers to let his actions in the ring speak for himself, however many fans are having a hard time accepting him a true Horseman.

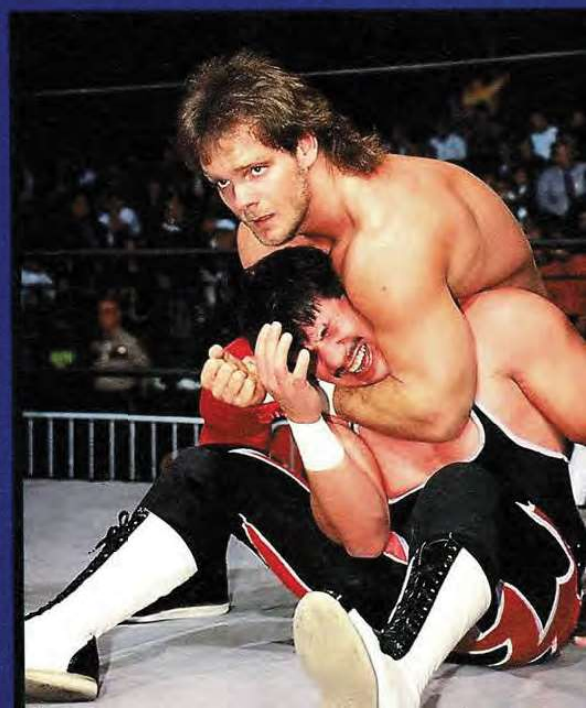
"I don't care what the fans say. I know what I am and I know how good I am. I know I'm great. I know I'm elite and I know I'm going to be a Horseman forever. The Four Horsemen will never die. There has been a lot of speculation as to which state we are in, that we are struggling or simply not a complete group. But I disagree; we're just going through a transitional state. No matter what, I'm going to pull my weight to keep this team together," he said. "I've heard people say that I'm the integral part of this team, but I disagree on that too. Everyone involved in the team is integral, no one more than another. We're like a fine-tuned machine and, to keep things working, everything has to flow together."

Still, there's no doubt about Benoit's importance to the group's future. He relates well with Flair and Anderson and has been instrumental in holding the group together.

Benoit says, " Ric and Arn weren't too happy with the direction the Horsemen were heading and that was the crux of the problem. It's all sorted now and I would trust Ric and Arn with my life."

A convincing statement, but how much of it is just rhetoric.

"The way I see things, Ric Flair and Arn Anderson wanted Chris Benoit on the side of the Horsemen because he's the fresh, young blood who will take the Horsemen to the next level. He was the key when the team was re-forming," said Terry Taylor. "Chris Benoit is a lot like Meng, but in a smaller package. He's 5-11, 220-pounds of pure wolverine. This guy doesn't know how to back up; he never relents, much like Ole Anderson, although he's far ahead of Ole technically. Benoit can do so



EVER

many moves. Plus, I think he's impervious to pain. You may knock him out, but he'll never give up. The thing Chris Benoit must do is, channel his aggression. This sport is a business where you cannot get your heart caught up in it. This is a sport where you make money to provide for a family and if Benoit can channel that aggression and figure out that that's what he's in this sport for — not just to beat people up — then I think he has the potential to do anything he wants to do in this sport. The only person who can stop Chris Benoit is Chris Benoit."

Is Kevin Sullivan an example of Chris letting his heart rule his head?

"Not at all, Kevin Sullivan sees the Horsemen as a threat to his Dungeon of Doom, so he's the one spreading all of the propaganda to split us up; that's what I believe is happening." Benoit said "and he has to be taught a lesson."

"Does that mean there are problems within the ranks of the Horsemen? Not at all. And if there were any problems, you'd be the last person I told. If the Horsemen have problems among ourselves, we certainly wouldn't go to the media to settle our differences or spread rumors, etc."

"Fans keep asking if the Horsemen are splitting up, or if they are already have. Well, the answer is: unequivocally NO! In fact, those who say we are splitting up, or should split up, are ridiculous. Truthfully, I don't know where those rumors start. They are a joke to me and, as I said, nothing more than a rumor. People are constantly jealous of the Horsemen for our success and our ability; that, I'm sure leads to a lot of the rumors."

There is, however, no denying the mystique of the Horsemen. And Benoit knows that first-hand.

"When I was wrestling for (the) Calgary Stampede (organization) in the mid-1980s, we didn't get wrestling on television other than Stampede, but, still, everyone was well familiar with The Four Horsemen; that shows how prominent they were ... and still are! The Four Horsemen are the cream of the crop in the wrestling world!"

Benoit, known to most as "The Crippler," is a ring master, with a chop as deadly as any in the business. He plays by the M&M approach: mame and mutilate. But does he consider himself a cruiserweight or a heavyweight?"

"I regard myself as a great, untouchable technical wrestler. The best this sport has ever seen. It doesn't matter what belt, TV, Heavyweight, US, Cruiserweight ... I want them all. I am a competitive wrestler, I crave competition, that's why I'm here in WCW. My ring technique has been respected and feared through the world; that includes Japan, Europe, Mexico and Canada. And I am now about to make a reputation for myself in the United States," Benoit said. "What is there to say about my wrestling style? I'm great, unparalleled. When I go to the ring, I'm so focused on what I've got to achieve that I don't let anything else bother me. I go into the ring with one thing on my mind: winning at all cost."

Regardless of opponent, or the lore that person carries. When Chris Benoit arrived in WCW he said "I am here to wrestle with the big boys," how does he feel he has fared against them?

"I am a big boy and I've proved time and time again just how good I am. 'Macho Man' Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan are great wrestlers. Actually, they WERE great wrestlers. Their day in the spotlight has past. And I'm going to be the one to show them how great they WERE," Benoit said. "I know they've seen my style and I honestly believe they are fearful, afraid. When the time is right, I will take them out. I will make the most of my opportunities and go accordingly. To me, they are nothing more than a name. And what's a name? I'm not afraid of a name."

Eddie Guerrero remains one of Benoit's most frequent challenges, how long has this feud been going on and how did it start?

"I don't consider it to be a feud. I think Guerrero's a punk. What I enjoy when

I'm wrestling him is tormenting him. I enjoy playing with him in the ring. He's like a toy. I enjoy inflicting pain on him. I can take Guerrero on at any given time in any type of match. I like testing him and pushing him to see just what he has got. And up until now he's shown me nothing."

WCW Magazine recently cited you as the future of wrestling, the man who would wear the belt in the year 2000 and beyond. Does that kind of talk put you under pressure?

"Not at all, because I know that I am the future of wrestling and the future is happening right now and there is nobody in WCW who can stop me from getting the gold. Even if it's The Giant," Benoit said. "The bigger they are, the harder they fall."

So what is Chris Benoit's ultimate agenda?

"To make the Horsemen more elite, stronger and better than ever. To take them to the next level and beyond. Ric and Arn won't be wrestling forever and then the Horseman legacy will be mine and I don't intend to let it die. I will recruit and build, the Horseman legend will live on as long as I am wrestling."

EXPERT ASSESSMENT

In this exclusive WCW Magazine feature, four of World Championship Wrestling's most knowledgeable personalities take an up-close-and-personal look at current WCW Superstars.
These aren't comments you'll hear at the arenas or on TV-these are the true beliefs of the biggest and most provocative mindsets in the sport today!

Brian Knobs & Jerry Sags

Height: 6' 3" & 6' 2"
Weight: 320lbs & 310lbs
Birthdates: May 6 & July 5
Hometown: New York, NY
Signature Maneuver: Elbowdrop and Bodyslam
WCW Title Held: World Tag Team Champions (Three-times): 9/93, 10/93, 5/95

NASTY BOYS

Colonel Robert Parker

"Why, these men make a mockery of the fine scientific skills employed by truly great scientific wrestlers such as myself and Dirty Dick Slater! Sags and Knobs have made a darn fine name for themselves by roughhousing and hitting people with anything that isn't nailed down, but is that wrestling? The Nasty Boys are former WCW World Tag Team Champions, I know. But that doesn't mean I have to abide their nasty breaking of the rules and regulations of this fine sport. Every wrestler in the stable of Col. Parker is a sportsman, a gentleman, and a fine man. You can't say that about either Sags or Knobs!"

Col. Robert Parker is the self-proclaimed greatest showman in the world. He has several top WCW wrestlers under his guidance.

Dusty Rhodes

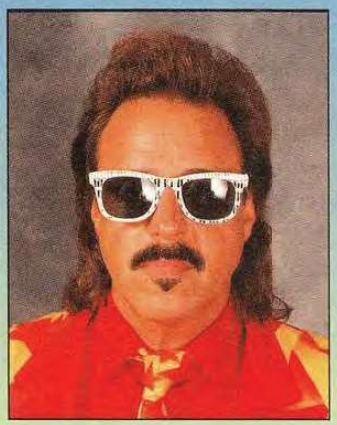
"The Nasty Boys are two of my real favorites! They're the kings of clubbering! Now, a lot of people, including good 'ol Tony Schiavone, have had to ask me time and again what exactly 'clubbering' is. Well, if two men get their opponent in a corner and all four fists are flying on the poor sucker, that's clubberin'! Who does that better than the Nasty Boys? Sure, nobody's gonna confuse these guys with Lou Thesz and Frank Gotch, but have you ever seen a more devastatin', nastier, more respected pair of tough guys than Knobs and Sags? They ain't pretty, but they always get the job done!"

Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream," is one of the most popular wrestlers of all time. During his incredible career he has managed to win the NWA World Heavyweight Championship on three different occasions.

Larry Zbyszko

"I find it very hard to like a couple of guys who thumb their noses at convention the way The Nasty Boys do. After all, I don't think either of them would know a wristlock from a wristwatch. Like Gordon Solie used to say, professional wrestling—GOOD professional wrestling, that is — is a game of human chess, men in a ring trying to outdo each other with their minds, bodies, and mettle. The Nasty Boys, like other teams such as The Road Warriors and their ilk, run in the ring and blindly start pounding on people with no regard to defense or building momentum. Sags and Knobs have been successful, to be sure. They're still championship contenders as well. But even if they win the WCW World Tag Team title one hundred times, they'll never be the kind of champion that I once was."

"Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko is regarded as one of the greatest wrestlers in history. He is currently the co-host of WCW Pro on TBS Superstation.



Jimmy Hart

"I have nothing against Sags and Knobs, personally. They're fine wrestlers, and I can't help but think they'd be even better with a truly great manager such as myself to guide their careers. If you remember I am the one who discovered their raw potential and guided them to the top. I kind of like their style, too. The Nasty Boys are two no-nonsense brawlers who take no prisoners and ask no quarter. They are real men in a sport that sometimes has its share of guys who just don't measure up. The reason I can't endorse these guys, though, is because I know they're friends with Hulk Hogan. I see them talking to him, and they are speaking in glowing terms about him. Case closed!"

Jimmy Hart is arguably the greatest manager in the history of the sport. His current charges include The Giant, The Taskmaster and The Faces of Fear.

LOOKING BACK

The Starrcade Iron Man Tag Team Tournament

December 13, 1989

"What a @&#! night!" enthused Hawk of The Road Warriors as he recalled that memorable night nearly seven years ago. "They all had us counted out, the critics had us left for dead. Even some of our fans thought we were cooked, but we came back and kicked butt, just like we always do!"

It only seems natural that Hawk and Animal, the mighty Road Warriors, are back atop the WCW tag team ratings, where they always should have been. These days, these grizzled brawlers have a whole new slew of teams to go up against, including (but certainly not limited to) World Tag Team Champions Lex Luger and Sting, Harlem Heat, Public Enemy, The Nasty Boys, The Blue Bloods, Fire & Ice, Men At Work, The American Males, Joey Maggs and Sgt. Pittman, the always incredible Rick and Scott Steiner, The Faces of Fear, and so on. It's the greatest assemblage of tag team talent the mat world has ever seen.

Which brings us back to not so long ago. It was 1989's Starrcade, "The Grandaddy of all Wrestling Supercards," that saw two unique Iron Man competitions. It might have been the most unique scoring system in the history of wrestling tournaments.

Sure, pinfalls were the deciding factor in this event. The card was a round-robin tournament both in singles and tag teams. Wrestlers received 20 points for a pinfall or submission victory, but only 15 for a countout win. Ten points were awarded for a disqualification victory. Teams each got five points for a draw, and of course no points for a loss.

In the singles competition, Sting emerged with 40 points, besting Lex Luger's tally of 35 and Ric Flair's 25 points.

Can you guess who didn't score a point in the tourney?

Amazingly, The Great Muta, who today would surely be a favorite in such an event, went home with the goose egg.

The Iron Man Tag Team competition is looked back upon by wrestling historians as one of the most exciting tag team events ever.

Locking up were the top four WCW teams of that year: The Road Warriors, Rick and Scott Steiner, Doom, which was comprised of Ron Simmons and Butch Reed, and The New Wild Samoans.

Fans around the country could not determine which duo could win such a thrilling event. After all, Doom and the Samoans were prone to disqualifications. The Warriors and the Steiners were so evenly matched that at that point in time, neither team had ever scored a victory over the other.

In fact, the teams hardly wrestled each other.

"There was a definite fan frenzy for a match between the Steiners and us," recalled Hawk. "Heck, people still want to see us take on the Steiners today! So I'll admit that we were just a little more pumped for this night than for just a regular match. We were hoping we'd show the world that were STILL the best team in WCW, not those younger guys!"

At the conclusion of the first match of the tournament, it appeared that the Warriors would have a decided advantage as the tourney wore on. That's because Simmons and Reed gave the Steiners a simply great match in the opener, taking the Michigan brothers to the limit in a test of strength and endurance. Although the Steiners scored a countout victory, it was clear the bout had taken a lot out of Scott and Rick.

However, as bad as things seemed for the Steiners, they were even worse for Simmons and Reed. Hawk and Animal rolled right over the tired Doom in double-quick time eliminating them from the tourney.

Guess what that meant?

As luck would have it, it was time for the Steiners and the LOD to get it on! Fans lurched forward in their seats as these four world-class athletes charged at each other. To the shock of many, the Steiners scored the pinfall victory when Scott pinned Animal, but most fans had thought it was Animal who had scored the pin! Both men's shoulders were down during the pin count, but the referee ruled that Scott had lifted his shoulder at the three-count and therefore earned the victory.

Not in everyone's eyes!

"For the referee to see that, he'd have to have been a fly on the canvas!" Hawk barked.

"Personally, I've watched the video of that bout 100 times, and to this day, I still think we won. I'm not going to cry and moan like some people would. Instead, I'll let the history books show who the REAL winner of the Iron Team tournament was!"

The Samoans seemed at the top of their game, as they, like everyone else, scored a big win over Doom.

In the most unlikely result of the tourney, the Samoans next defeated the Steiners by disqualification.

That left the Warriors to take on the Samoans, and there was no way Animal and Hawk were going to go down to defeat again.

"Let's just say that Animal and Hawk consider that night one of our greatest," said Hawk with a smile. "We practically sent those guys back to Samoa all bandaged up. Serves 'em right for messing with the Legion Of Doom!"

So who would win a WCW Iron Man Tag Team competition if one were held today?

First off, how could anyone, be he human or computer, whittle down these great teams to just four?

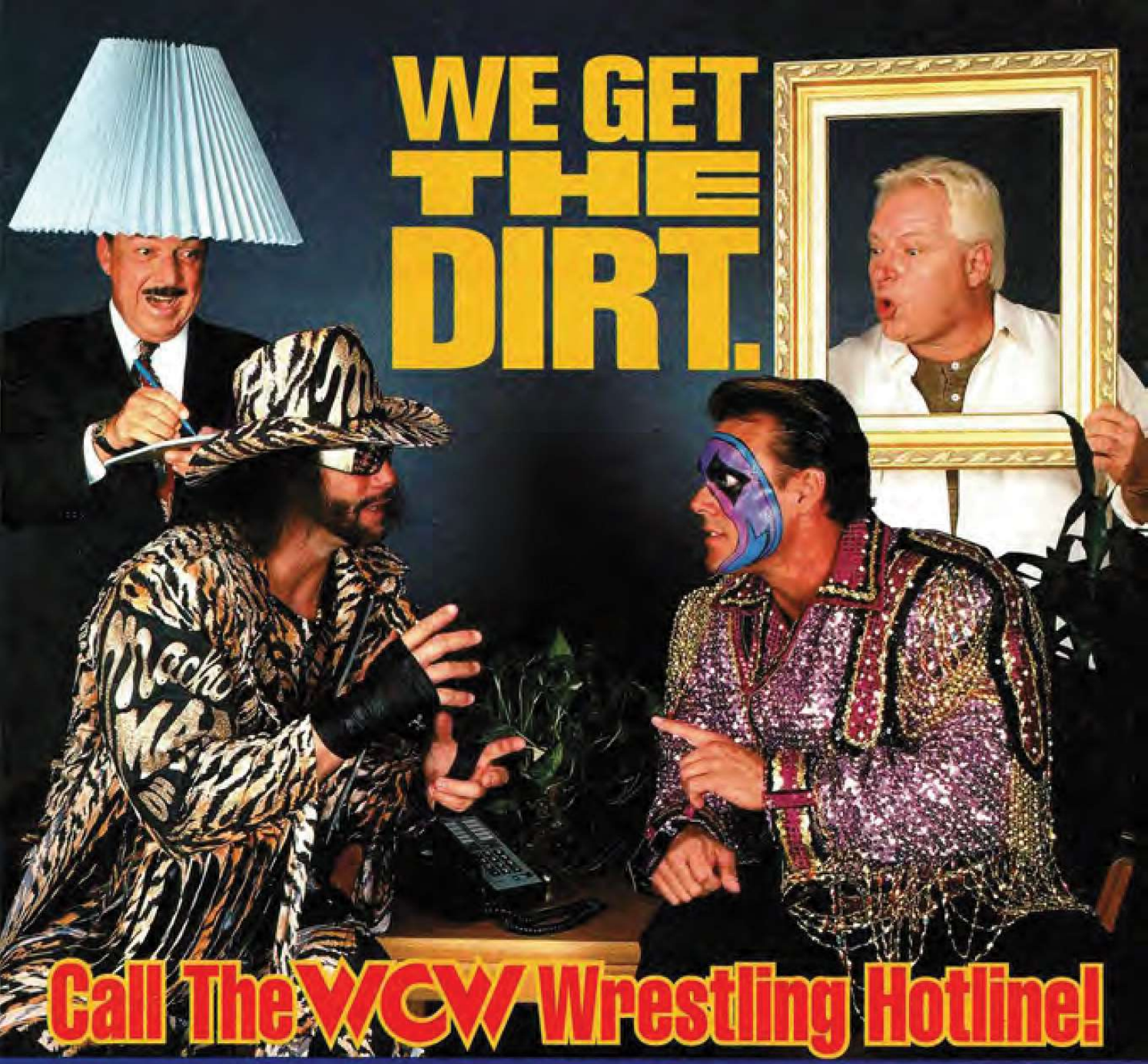
So, for the sake of argument, let's say that Luger and Sting, the Steiners, The Road Warriors, and Public Enemy made it to the tournament.

An informal poll of WCW staffers sees such a tourney this way: As much as we respect Rock and Grunge, they simply don't care if they lose by disqualification or not, so they probably could have a problem with the points system.

Luger and Sting, the current Champions, might be heartened by the fact that the title would not be on the line, but the presence of the meddling Jimmy Hart could mean more trouble than they could overcome.

That means we'd see the Warriors versus the Steiners all over again.

We're not brave enough to pick a winner for that one. Just save us the ringside seats!



1·900·909·9900

Children under 18 must obtain parental permission before calling. Calls cost $1.49 per minute.

Call 24 hours a day - 7 days a week. Call from any kind of phone, digital or rotary.

DAILY UPDATE

Sunday- Bobby "The Brain" Heenan
Monday- Mike Tenay
Tuesday- Terry Taylor
Wednesday- Mark Madden
Thursday- Mike Tenay
Friday- Mark Madden
Saturday-"Mean" Gene Okerlund

PIN THE CHAMP

Have you got what it takes to go head to head with the superstars of WCW? Here's your chance to find out. Just call and brawl with the hottest interactive wrestling game in the world!

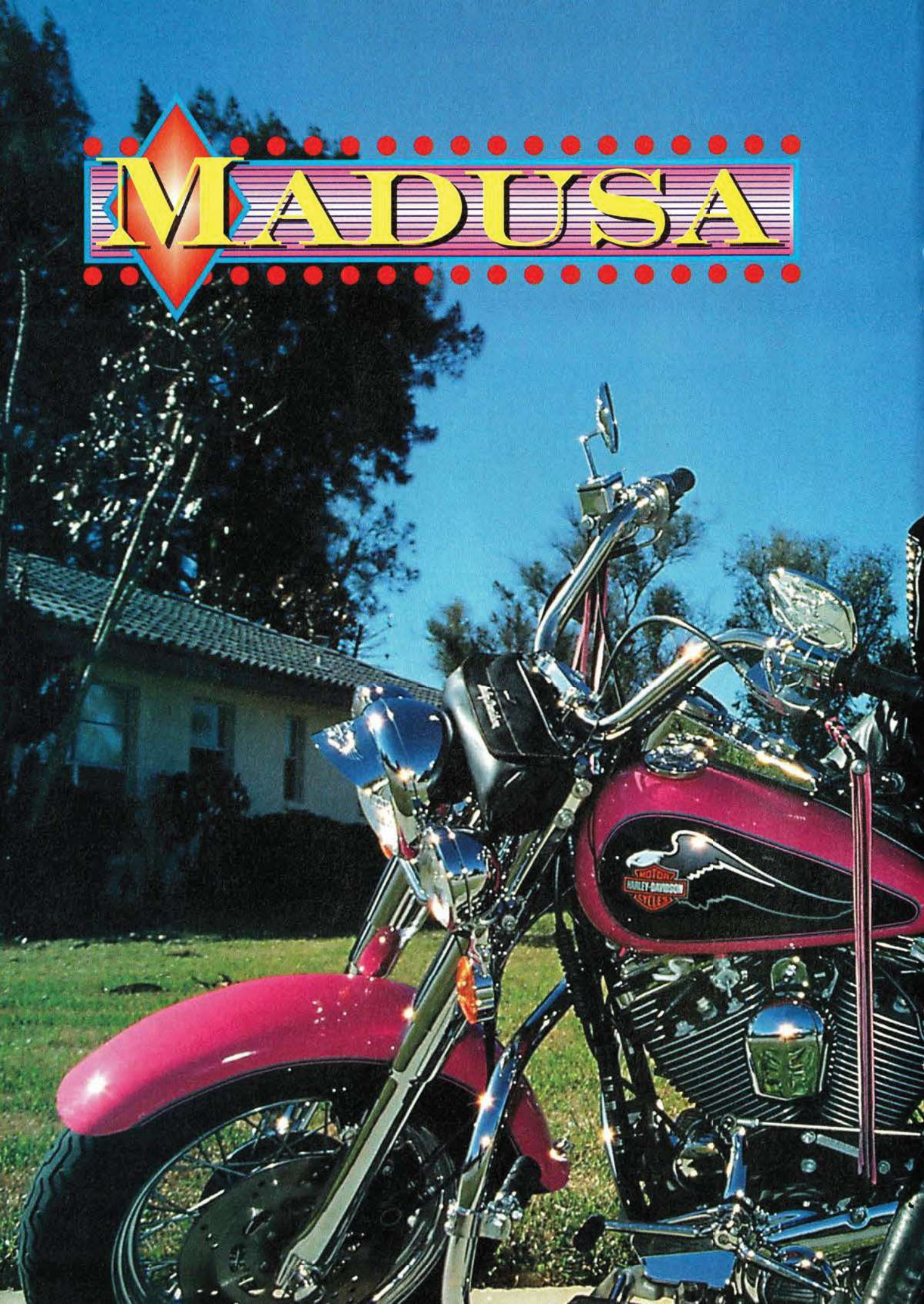
WCW VOTE LINE

Voice your opinion!
Get something off your chest!
Vote on current hot World Championship Wrestling topics.
This is the place for the fans to let their voices be heard!

CANADIAN FANS CALL 1-900-451-5344, CALLS COST $1.99 PER MINUTE

Daily programming subject to change and availability. World Championship Wrestling, One CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366

MADUSA



WCW
World Championship
Wrestling™

INSANE?

YOU MUST BE IF YOU DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO WCW MAGAZINE

...a subscription to WCW Magazine guarantees your copy will be delivered to your door before it goes on sale on the newsstands. Now you can also complete your collection of WCW Magazines by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. So don't miss out, fill in all the details below relevant to your country.

Issue 1

Issue 2

Issue 3

Issue 4

Issue 5

Issue 6

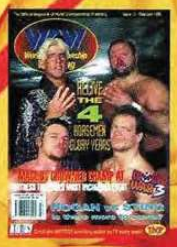
Issue 7

Sold out

Issue 9

Issue 10

Issue 11


Issue 12

I want a 12 month subscription to WCW Magazine at a cost of $38.00 in the USA & Canada, £24.00 in the UK & Ireland
Start subscription with issue .....

Method of payment
(Checks payable to Cell Publishing Ltd.)
Check or money order $38.00 ☐
Check or money order £24.00 ☐
MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ £24.00 Sterling
Credit card transactions will be debited in UK funds

Card no.: .....

Expiry date : .....

Name on card : .....

Signature : .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

City .....

State / County .....

Zip / Post code .....

European subscriptions £40.00
International £48.00 UK funds only

Please allow 8 weeks to receive first issue

RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

I would also like the following back issues at
$5.00 USA / Canada £3.00 UK / Ireland per copy

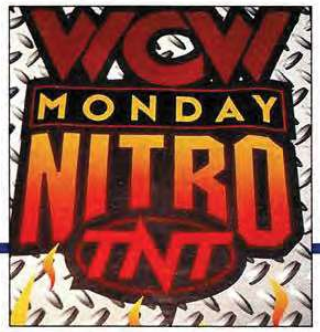
1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐
7 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐
and I enclose a payment of $ / £ ..... 14 ☐

Renewal ☐ New subscription ☐

Please send form and payment to:

In the USA & Canada
WCW Magazine c/o Colin Bowman One CNN Center
Box no. 105366 Atlanta GA 30348 - 5366

In the UK & Ireland
WCW Magazine Cell Publishing Ltd.
28/30 Osnaburgh St. London NW1 3ND



WCW ON YOUR LOCAL STATIONS (Check your area listings for times and availability)

USA

WCW SATURDAY NIGHT
SEATTLE KTZZ.

WCW WORLDWIDE
ALBUQUERQUE KASA, AMARILLO KFDA, ANCHORAGE KYES, ASHLAND/ MANSFIELD WBP, AUGUSTA WFXG, BALTIMORE WBFF, BILOXI/GULFPORT WLOX, BIRMINGHAM WTTO, BLUEFIELD WVVA, BOSTON WSBK, BOWLING GREEN WGRB, BRANSON KO5JQ, BURLINGTON/ PLATTSBURG WWIN, CHARLESTON WTAT, CHARLESTON/HUNTING WVAH, CHARLOTTE WFVT, CHARLOTTE WHKY, CHATTANOOGA WDSI, CHICAGO WCIU, CLEVELAND/CANTON WOAC, COLORADO SPRINGS KOAA, COLUMBIA WOLO, COLUMBUS WRBL, COLUMBUS WWHO, COLUMBUS/ TUPELO WTVA, DALLAS/FT WORTH KDFI, DAYTON WRGT, DETROIT WDIV, DOTHAN WTVY, EL PASO KJLF, ERIE WJET, FLORENCE WBTW, FORT WAYNE WFFT, FRESNO/VISALIA KAIL, GREENWOOD/GREENVILLE WXVT, GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG WSPA, HARLINGEN KGBT, HARRISBURG/ LANCASTER WLYH, HOUSTON KRIV, HUNTSVILLE WYLE, INDIANAPOLIS WTTV, JACKSON WJTV, JACKSON WMTU, JACKSONVILLE WNFT, JOHNSTOWN/ALTOONA WWCP, KANSAS CITY KSMO, KNOXVILLE WKXT, LAKE CHARLES KVHP, LAS VEGAS KUPN, LITTLE ROCK/PINE BLFF KASN, LOS ANGELES KNBC,LOUISVILLE WFTE, LUBBOCK KJTV, MACON WMGT, MASON CITY KIMT, MEMPHIS WHBQ, MEMPHIS WLMT, MIAMI/ FT LAUDERDALE WBFS, MILWAUKEE WDJT, MINNEAPOLIS KMSP, MOBILE PENSACOLA WEAR, MONROE/EL DORADO KNOE, MONTGOMERY WCOV, NASHVILLE WXMT, NASHVILLE/HOPKINSVILLE WKAG, NEW ORLEANS WUPL, NEW YORK WCBS, NORFOLK WTVZ, OKLAHOMA CITY KOCB, ORLANDO WRBW, PHILADELPHIA WGBS, PHOENIX KTVK, PITTSBURGH WPTT, PORTLAND KEBN, PROVIDENCE WPRI, RALEIGH/DURHAM WKFT, SAN ANTONIO KABB, SANTA BARARA KSTB, SALISBURY WBOC, SAVANNAH WJCL, SYRACUSE WSYT, SHREVEPORT KTBS, ST LOUIS KDNL, TALLAHASSEE WCTV, TAMPA WTVT, TRI CITIES WKPT, UTICA WUPN, WACO/TEMPLE KCEN, WASHINGTON WDCA, W-B/SCRANTON PCTN, WEST PALM BEACH WTVX, WICHITA KWCH.

WCW PRO WRESTLING
ALBANY WSST, ALEXANDRIA KLAX, ATLANTA/LA GRANGE WGBN, BRANSON K05JQ, BUFFALO W58AV, BURLINGTON/PLATTSBURG WWIN, CHARLESTON WCIV, CHARLOTTE WFVT, CHARLOTTE/HICKORY WHKY, CHICAGO WCIU, CINCINATTI WBQC, CLEVELAND/AKRON WAKC, COLUMBUS WWHO, COLUMBUS WSWS, COLUMBUS TUPELO WCBI, DALLAS KDFI, EL PASO KJLF, EUGENE/ROSEBURG KROZ, FAYETTEVILLE WFAY, FLORENCE/MYRTLE BEACH WGSE, FT MYERS WSWF, FT WAYNE WFFT, GREENVILLE WFBC, HARLINGEN–SPANISH CLEARANCE KGBT, HATTIESBURG/LAUREL WHLT, HUNTSVILLE/DEC/FLO WYLE, INDIANAPOLIS WAV, JACKSONVILLE WNFT, KINGMAN KMOH, LOUISVILLE WBNA, MANCHESTER WMCH, MIAMI/FT LAUDERDALE WSVN, MILWAUKEE WVTV, MINNEAPOLIS KLGT, NASHVILLE WKZX, NASHVILLE WNAB, NASHVILLE/HOPKINSVILLE WKAG, NORFOLK/PORTSMOUTH WPEN, ORLANDO WRBW, PHOENIX KSAZ , PHOENIX KUSK, PORTLAND KEBN, RALEIGH/DURHAM WRDC, ROANOKE/ LYNCHBURG WSLS, SANTA BARBARA KSTB, SAVANNAH WTOC, SEATTLE/TACOMA KTZZ, SPOKANE KDQ, ST GEORGE KSGI, TAMPA/ST PETE/SAR WBSV, TAMPA WTTA, TOLEDO WWAP, WEST PALM BEACH WAQ.

WCW MAIN EVENT
ORLANDO WRBW.

CANADA

WCW WORLDWIDE
HALIFAX CJCH, LONDON CFPL, NORTH BAY CKNY, OTTAWA CJOH, PRINCE ALBERT CIPA, REGINA CKCK, SASKATOON CFQC, SAULT STE. MARIE CHBX, ST JOHN/MONCTON CKCW, SUDBURY CICI, SYDNEY/GL BAY CJCB, TIMMINS CITO, TORONTO CFTO, WHEATLEY CHWI, WINGHAM CKNX, WINNEPEG CKY, YORKTON CICC.

WCW MAIN EVENT
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE CHMI.

EUROPE

(Check local listings as times vary. All times GMT)

NITRO
TNT FRIDAY 7pm

PROGRAM GUIDE

Keep up-to-date with all the latest WCW developments as our power-packed programs bring all the arena action right into your living room!

WCW ON TNT
WCW MONDAY NITRO LIVE
MONDAY 8:00PM EST
REPLAYS AT MIDNIGHT EST

WCW ON SUPERSTATION TBS
WCW PRO WRESTLING
SATURDAY 9:05AM EST
WCW SATURDAY NIGHT
SATURDAY 6:05PM EST
WCW MAIN EVENT

WCW ON SPORTSOUTH
WCW PRO WRESTLING
WEDNESDAY 12:30AM EST

WCW ON PRIME
MONDAY 5:00PM EST
Check with regional sports network in your area for specific dates & times

LIVE EVENT CALENDAR

Check out our calendar to find out when WCW will be coming to your area. Cities, arenas and dates are subject to change, so please check before you make your plans.

June

17 TNT Monday Nitro Live
Richmond, VA

19 TV Taping
Gainesville, GA

24 TNT Monday Nitro Live
Charlotte, NC

26 TV Taping
Dalton, GA

28 Hartford, CT

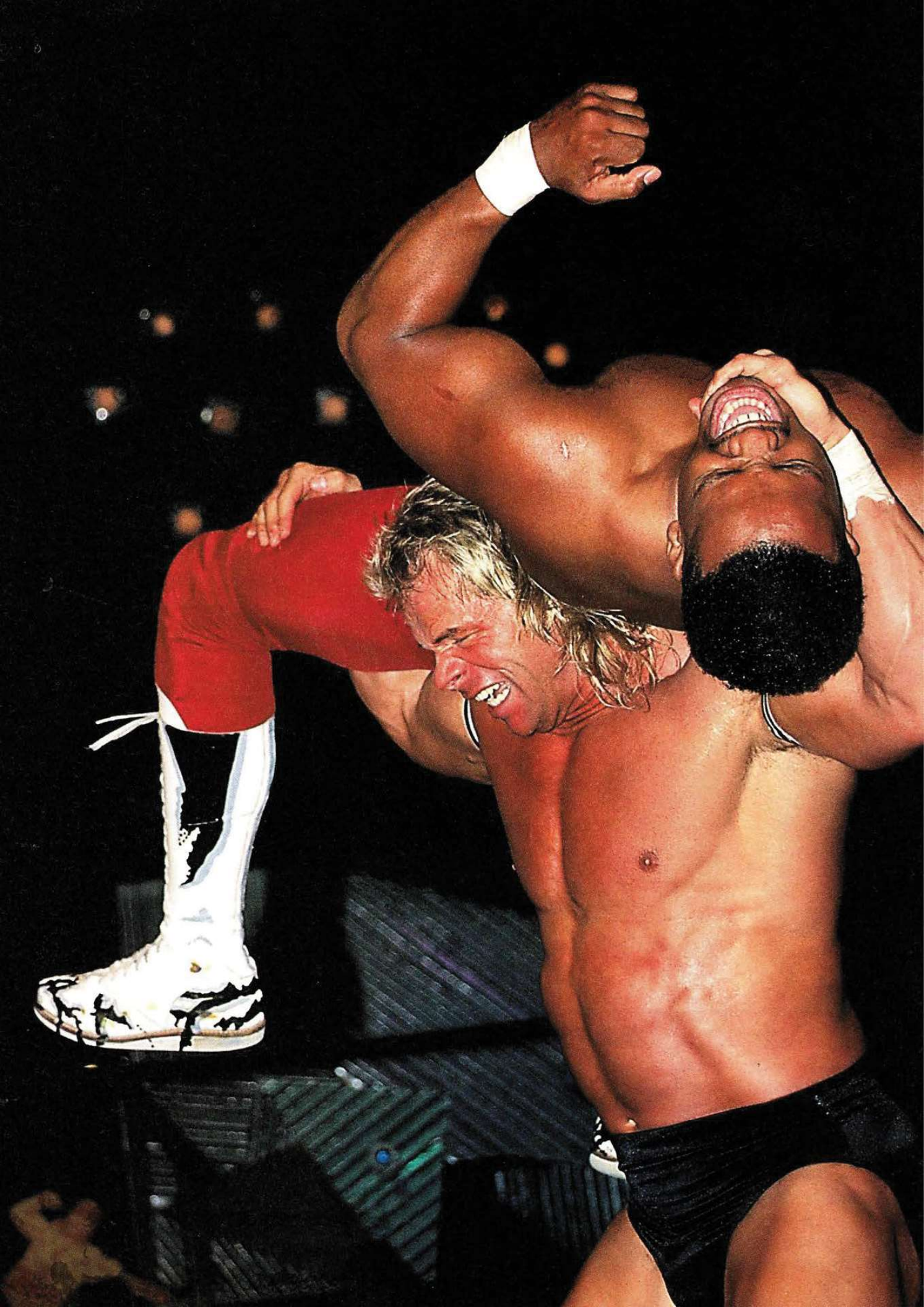
29 Philadelphia, PA

30 New York, NY

July

1 TNT Monday Nitro Live
Landover, MD

7 BASH AT THE BEACH PPV,
Daytona Beach, FL



IN THE HOTSEAT

LEX LUGER

Lex Luger's athletic accomplishments began early. For instance, while in the third-grade at Sweet Home Elementary School in Buffalo, Luger had the school's fastest time in the 50-yard dash. He also had the school's best high-jump mark that same year. His popularity among his peers, naturally, increased dramatically due to his athletic prowess.

"Those accomplishments in the third-grade gave me a certain feeling as if I was someone different, someone special. It was an adrenaline rush and I fed off that. I guess that's what led me into sports," he says.

After all, it certainly wasn't his family that pushed him to excel on the athletic fields of life. His mom (Marion) was an academic scholar who had the best grade point average in her Buffalo high school for three consecutive years. His dad (Roger) was a concert pianist who operated a piano shop. His sister (Barbara) was a musician and his brother (Barry) was an artist. Lex, the youngest of the bunch, was the renegade, the one who marched to his own beat, the one who left his prep mark in football, basketball (his favorite of the three sports) and on the track.

"The focus of my childhood was music, art and education — not sports. We had a concert piano in the house and every day I'd wake up to my dad playing Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Bach or something like that," he recalls. "I was a shy kid, and basically still am a shy person. Sports helped me make friends at an early age."

"My parents were not prohibitive as far as my interest in sports; they just didn't know much about it. It was all new to them."

Luger had only two family requirements if he wanted to compete athletically: he had to maintain an A average (90 plus) in all of his classes and he had to take at least one musical pursuit (be it an instrument or choir).

"I remember him as one of the star athletes at our high school, Orchard Park High in suburban Buffalo, N.Y. The school has had successful football players over the years, guys who have gone on to stardom in the National Football League. However, Lex Luger of World Championship Wrestling is, by far, the most recognizable athlete to ever come out of our high school."
Paul Luchowski (OPHS, Class of 1976), Director of Operations for the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL), talking about classmate Lex Luger.

Lex will do anything to win

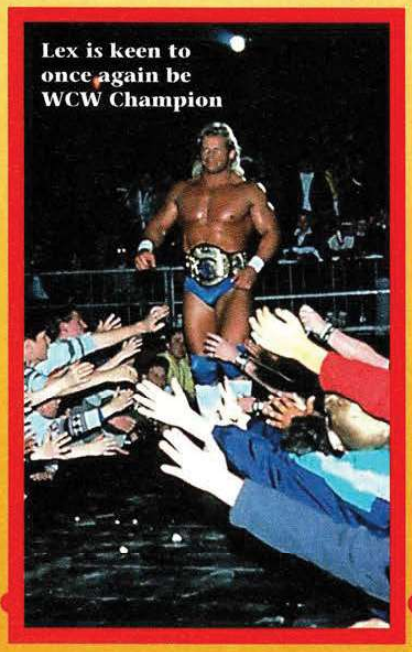
Lex swears things would be different if he faced Flair now

"After graduating from high school, I basically had three options: college, which could have been at almost any Ivy League school; the Naval Academy, through an appointment by (then-) Congressman Jack Kemp who, when I was growing up, was the star quarterback for the Buffalo Bills; or, The Football Factory," Luger said. "I was 17-years-old at the time and, as most people now know, I chose The Football Factory. I went to the University of Miami to play football, which, I'll admit, was (a decision) based more on emotion than logic."

"When you think about it, the decision (of going) into The Football Factory shouldn't have come as much of a surprise. Lex Luger has always been one to do the unexpected."

The Hurricanes, a perennial powerhouse on the gridiron, featured quarterback Jim Kelly during Luger's stint ... which was brief. Luger left school early to join the Montreal Alouttes of the Canadian Football League. He stayed there for three years, then jumped to the Green Bay Packers where he stayed for two seasons. Luger was the last Packer to wear uniform number 66 before it was retired; it was the number Ray Nitschke wore to Hall of Fame status. Luger's football career also included a tour with the Tampa Bay Bandits of the now-defunct USFL, a team then-coached by Steve Spurrier.

"When the USFL folded, I again had several options: the NFL, Law School at Stetson University or professional wrestling," he said. "Wrestling was just hitting the big time back then, meaning, it was getting front-page headlines. Hulkamania was running wild, on MTV and everywhere else."

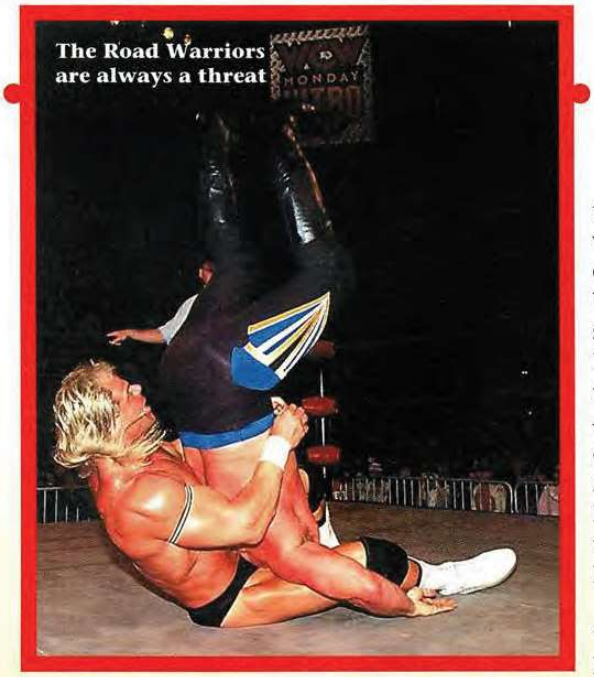

Lex is keen to once again be WCW Champion

"I had long hair and was, well, kind of a rebel, so I decided on wrestling."

He was trained by former grappler Hiro Matsuda and, three months later, was in the ring for good. Shortly thereafter he was the Southern Heavyweight Champion. Luger went on to capture the 1986 Rookie of the Year Award. "The Total Package" was born, with an amazing combination of physical and brain power. Yes, Lex Luger was destined for greatness.

"Some people feel I haven't fulfiled that destiny, but I strongly disagree. I have been the World Television Champion, two-time World Tag Team Champion, four-time U.S. Heavyweight Champion and World Heavyweight Champion. I don't see how people can label me 'underachiever.' I've accomplished a lot more than most," he said, staring proudly at the two title belts that — as of press time — were in his possession.

"I think I'm really peaking;


The Road Warriors are always a threat

everything is coming together for Lex Luger — in the ring and out. I'm in better shape nowadays than anytime in my life and I'm very happy with my personal life. Everything is at a level for optimum performance for Lex Luger and I think holding two belts at once is just a manifestation of everything good that's happening in my life."

"I have no plans on slowing down this summer. I just plan on adding to the momentum that I have had this year. And, who knows, maybe I'll win all four belts this year ... and maybe I'll hold them all at once. That would be the most remarkable achievement of all time. It definitely would be the stamp that I leave on professional wrestling."

Luger downplays any friction with his "best friend/business partner" Sting, despite rumors to the contrary.

"Sting and I push one another to greater levels of achievement each and every time we're in the ring, and also when we're working out in the gym," Luger said. "When you're that good of friends, you are a catalyst for one another; you get one another revved up. And that's what's happened to both of us throughout our careers, particularly since my return."

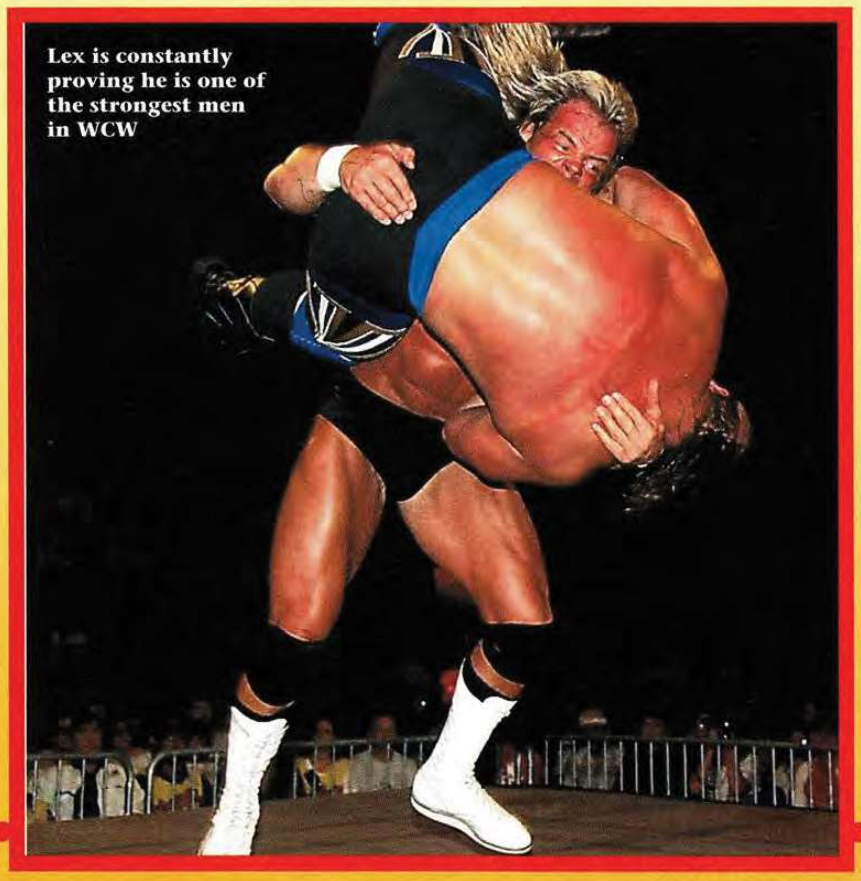
Lex Luger's return to WCW — on last September's debut of Monday Nitro on TNT — will go down in wrestling history as one of the biggest surprises. After all, he had wrestled the previous day for the WWF.

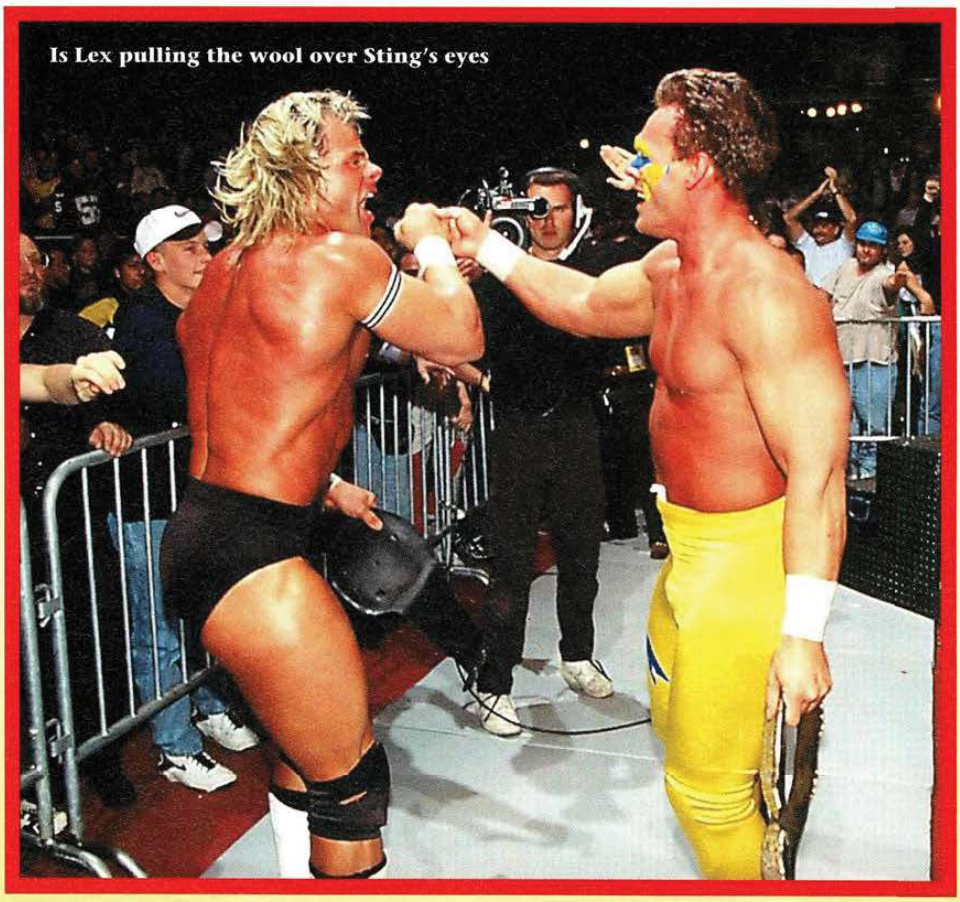
"I've always felt that I am a WCW wrestler. I never was comfortable in the WWF," he said. "Even shortly after I left WCW, I felt like I wanted to come back home — to WCW — but, contractually, I couldn't. Almost from the first day I regretted the move to the WWF; I felt like I had left my home."

"The saying goes, 'home is where the heart is.' Well, Lex Luger's home is WCW and I couldn't wish for a better partner and friend than Sting. I think we've both accomplished a lot throughout our careers, but both feel we still have a lot more to accomplish ... to leave our legacy. We both want to leave a much larger imprint on the sport of professional wrestling than what we have."

So, then, what about a match with Ric Flair? Your failure to beat him in so many title matches has to haunt you?

Luger smiled, paused, then started speaking, "I have a lot of professional respect for Ric Flair, for what he has accomplished over the years, even though I don't always agree with the ways and/or methods that he's accomplished those feats. But, as Ric Flair says, he'll go down in history as one of — if not the — greatest wrestlers of all-time. You've gotta hold him in high regard. However, I personally feel it's time for Lex Luger and/or Sting to step past Ric Flair. Now is our time to be The Man. We are The Men to replace The Man. Ric Flair has dominated Lex Luger in past (matches) because of ring experience and maturity — not necessarily because of his pure ability. But that won't be the case anymore. If you look at the facts, I should already be the WCW World Heavyweight Champion. I had him beat before Woman interfered. Now The Giant has the belt. I'll be challenging him that's for sure, but Ric Flair can't rest easy. I intend to lay the demons from the past to rest forever. It's my destiny."


Lex is constantly proving he is one of the strongest men in WCW

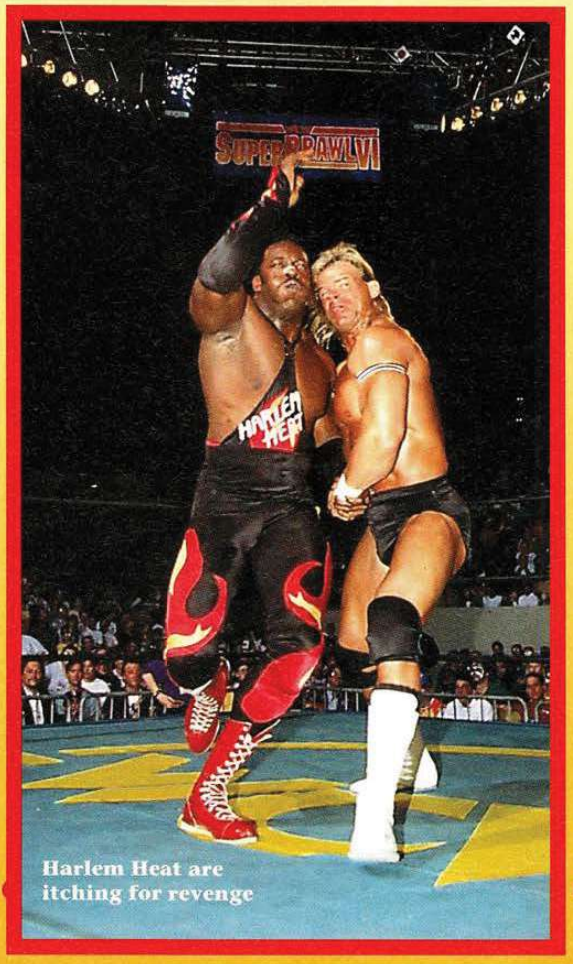

Is Lex pulling the wool over Sting's eyes

Here are Lex Luger's views on some of the WCW superstars:

THE ROAD WARRIORS
"Powerful."
BOBBY "THE BRAIN" HEENAN
"He's very funny."
MEAN GENE OKERLUND
"Professional."
COL. ROBERT PARKER
"He's a card shark."
MADUSA
"Dangerously seductive."
JIMMY "MOUTH OF THE SOUTH" HART
"He's the most mis-understood person in WCW."
LORD STEVEN REGAL
"He's a European-style wrestling technician."
EARL ROBERT EATON
"A great high-flyer, one of the originals ... I don't know anyone who comes off the top rope like him."
DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE
"One of the hardest working wrestlers in the sport."

THE GIANT
"Awesome untapped potential."
"MACHO MAN" RANDY SAVAGE
"The most tenacious man in wrestling."
WOMAN
"The most tenacious woman in wrestling."
ELIZABETH
"That innocent look is oh-so-deceiving."
KIMBERLY
"Wow!"
PUBLIC ENEMY
"Unorthodox."
NASTY BOYS
"Wild."
DEAN MALENKO
"Another great second-generation wrestler."
"DAS WUNDERKIND" ALEX WRIGHT
"A young kid with loads of potential."

KEVIN SULLIVAN
"Evil personified."
EDDIE GUERRERO
"A great competitor."
STING
"Charismatic."
RIC FLAIR
"He is The Nature Boy 24 hours-a-day."
DISCO INFERNO
"I think he's hilarious."
ERIC BISCHOFF
"Innovative."
STEVE MCMICHAEL
"He's kind of a nut."
MENG
"Dangerous ... very, very dangerous."
HULK HOGAN
"He will go down in history as the man who put pro wrestling on the mainstream map."
STEINER BROTHERS
"They wrote the book on suplexes."
HARLEM HEAT
"A lot of angry potential."



Harlem Heat are itching for revenge

Kick Wrestle & Roll WITH MADUSA

Wow ... What a response to my first column!

Sure, not every letter I received was a, 'Gee, I think your column is great,' but, there sure seemed to be a lot of positive notes. It certainly is true that everyone has his/her own opinion, and that certainly came through in the letters. There were, as I said, plenty of funny letters, some uplifting letters and, yeah, even some off-the-wall ones. Whatever YOUR opinion is, send it to me ... I want to hear what all WCW fans have to say.

I want to now spend a few moments talking about everyone's favorite humanoid, Bobby "The Weasel" (oops, I mean "The Brain") Heenan. I must admit that Bobby is a very nice guy ... if you are talking to him one-on-one. But, if someone walks by, forget it; he will literally look at you as he runs to talk to them as if your nose needed blowing or your eyes still have morning sleep in them. You know these sort of people, the ones who stare at any defect on your face, say nothing and leave. Bobby definitely is one of them! It's almost like, if you want to talk to "The Brain," then you must have a mirror for him to stare at himself. Yep, "The Brain," who now looks more like "Snow White" if you've seen his hair lately, always feels superior to everyone else. Why? I don't know. Bobby has a dry, lame and insensitive sense of humor — and his comments about the female population are WAY out of line. My advice to Bobby: get out of wrestling before someone slaps a lawsuit on you for being lost in the Dark Ages of Womanhood. "Bobby," you need to accept and change with the times, otherwise you might find yourself back with Mr. Gagne rejuvenating the AWA, while I take your place on the announcer's stand at Nitro.

Let's continue a little bit about women, particularly the female wrestlers of the world. American. Japanese. Mexican. European. Who are they and what do they mean to WCW? And what do they want in WCW? Well, the answer is simple: the WCW Women's Championship Belt, the most prestigious title of its kind. They will come from all corners of the world for a tournament and we will know more later this summer, so stay tuned. Personally, I have fought the best and some of the strangest, yet the ones who stand out to me are the Japanese. I have had some of my best matches ever with Bull Nakano, Manami Toyota and Chigusa Nagoya, to name a few. This year will burst with excitement at WCW, with the most wild women alive today. That's because we are the REAL action female heroes of the 1990s, and in relation to Pamela Anderson, we will make her look like a dowdy housewife. Get ready, the wild women of WCW are coming at you 100 MPH!

I want to spend a few minutes now talking about what I feel is a VERY important subject: education. I'm all for education, even though I'll admit that I feel our present education system is backwards at best. For example, some people are born smart in a poverty-stricken environment. Well, their life has the potential, but is heading through a path of violence, drugs, illiteracy, etc. And, since that person's family has no money to put them through the better schools to further their interests, such as art, they must accept this as their path in life. Hence, they usually end up dropping out of school, getting into drugs or joining a gang ... and that's NOT cool! Then there's the other kid, born into a family of wealth, but dumb as a nickel. Well, as you can imagine, that family can simply buy him/her an education. Is that fair? I don't think so. What's the deal? I blame it on politics. You see, I think everyone should have an equal chance at the beginning, all school systems should have equal educational systems. We shouldn't draw a line, er, create barriers in our schools; there are enough of those already, aren't there? We are always fighting the war as to what's best for our children ... so how's this different? The solution to this problem, I feel, is: pay teachers more. They deserve it!

It's normally a woman's prerogative to be late, so following Lex Luger's time-keeping problems I gave him a present and some advice. The present was a watch and the advice, learn to use it.

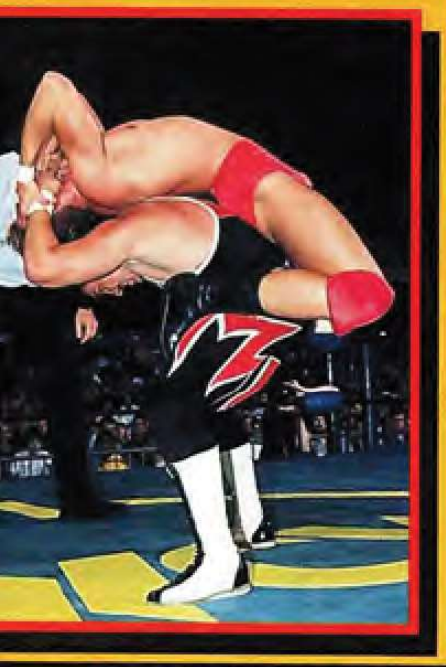
Madusa's Kick Wrestle and Roll International School of Professional Wrestling is about ready to rock and roll, if you know what I mean. So, you can bet there will be much more about this program in the months to come. Stay tuned!

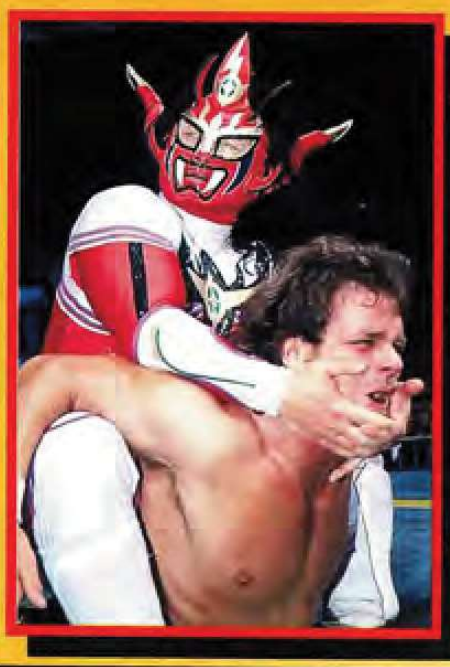
There has been so much talk of late about the sanity of one "Macho Man" Randy Savage, so I'd like to take a few moments to set the record straight. Or at least offer my two-cents on the situation. Is the "Macho Man" losing it? Hardly. He's the most honest, up-front, blunt, personal, cheap (in a good way), motivated person I know. I left out the word ballistic and that was on purpose. Is he wrong for his actions toward Ric Flair, Miss Elizabeth, Woman and Co.? I don't think so. In fact, I'd like to offer my services to Randy should he need, or simply want, a little back-up in his attack on that trio of terror. Let's think about it ... Madusa and the "Macho Man" vs. Flair and the Females!? Hmm, sounds rather interesting to me.

I was supposed to go scuba diving with WCW Magazine executive editor Ross Forman in late-April right here in lovely Tampa, Fla. However, the day we had that planned, it rained — as the old saying goes — cats and dogs. Yep, our scuba expedition was postponed by Mother Nature. No fears, wrestling fans, Ross has promised to return to Florida — with camera in hand — in late-May, so I'm sure you'll see some sensational pixs in the near future. Just as long as Mother Nature doesn't interrupt our expedition once again.

Well, that's about it for this month. Stay strong. Be Brave and Have Fun. Ciao!

Madusa





CRUISING FOR THE GOLD

Can WCW's new Cruiserweight division hit the big time?

There's no doubt that WCW's Cruiserweight tournament has injected new life into the federation, as some just-less-than-heavyweights get their opportunity for a big-time title. Will WCW's fans embrace the new lighter champion as they do the federation's heavier titlists?

There is very little doubt that there is a big difference between watching an Eddie Guerrero vs. Dean Malenko bout and a Hulk Hogan vs. The Giant bout. Or Hugh Morrus vs. Scott Norton as compared with Brad Armstrong vs. Alex Wright.

Just from the listings of those names, you can see the difference. WCW's lighter, more lithe mat stars, as is the case in most, not all federations, are the most gifted all-around athletes in the world. That's not to say the heavier competitors don't have their true talents. But close your eyes and think of ...

... Chris Benoit slapping on suplexes with amazing speed ...

... Eddie Guerrero leaping from the top turnbuckle to the arena floor with uncanny accuracy ...

... Dean Malenko putting on a leglock into a surfboard and scoring a submission victory before most fans knew what they were seeing ...

... Alex Wright dropkicking his foe from the top turnbuckle ...

See what we mean?

There are more thrills per pound in WCW's cruiserweight division than in any single ranking of competitors anywhere else in the mat world. Forget any other new generation; they've always ignored their lighter stars, and apparently always will.

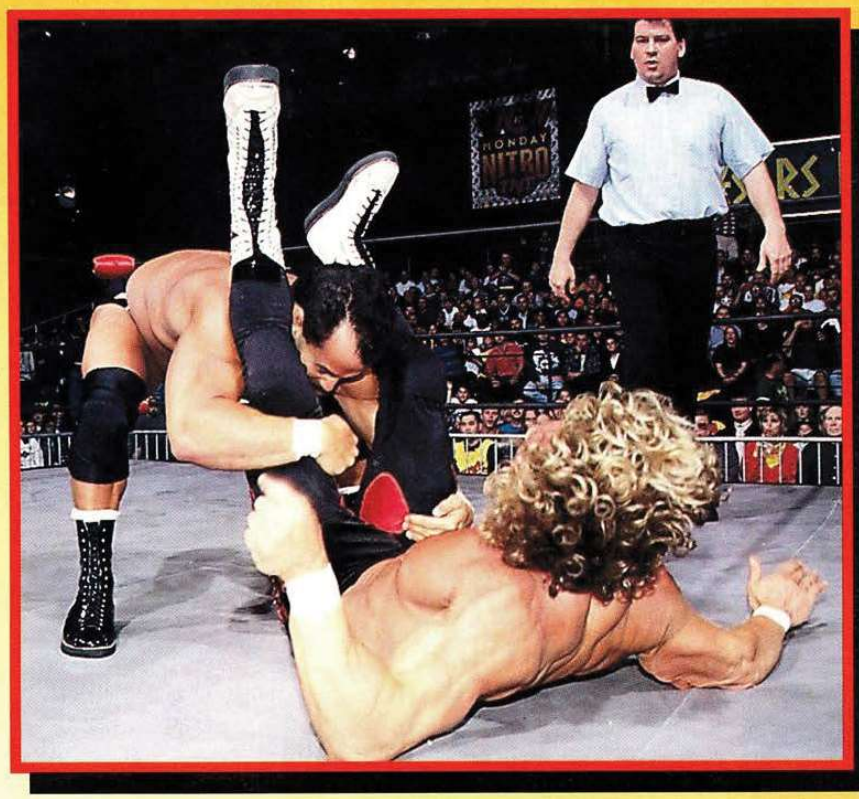
So what do WCW fans think of today's exciting new breed of lighter, cruiserweight stars, and of the WCW Cruiserweight Championship?

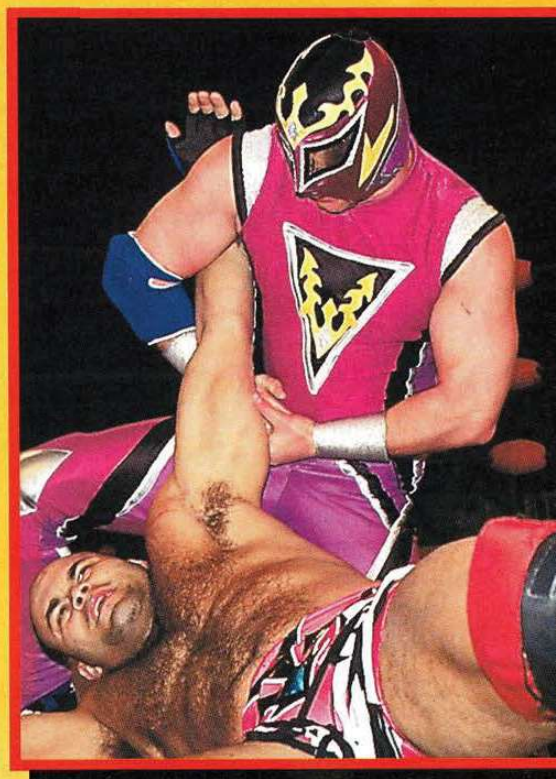
"It's the best thing to happen to wrestling, and to WCW in a long time," says Lisa Vernon of Philadelphia, a loyal WCW fan for more than 10 years. "Sometimes, I thought it was unfair that someone like, say, Eddie Guerrero would have to go up against someone like, heaven forbid, The Giant. As talented as Eddie is, and I think someday he'll be ranked among the all-time greats, there's little way that a 220-pounder can survive against a 450-pound giant. It's about time that WCW's cruiserweights got a chance to go up against other men in their weight class. Hey, I'd pay to watch an entire card of cruiserweight action. After all, Brad Armstrong? Eddie? Chris Benoit? Alex Wright? Hey, those guy are hunks!"

Obviously, not all fans are going to feel the same way. For years they have been bred on the theory that big is beautiful.

"A wrestler's not a wrestler unless he's a full-fledged heavyweight," says Ed Menning of Atlanta. "Give me the BIG boys, like Hulk Hogan, Sting, Scott Norton and Ice Train, Lex Luger, and the mighty Giant. I love to watch those behemoths mash each other up!"

So there you have the two schools of wrestling fans. However, many of



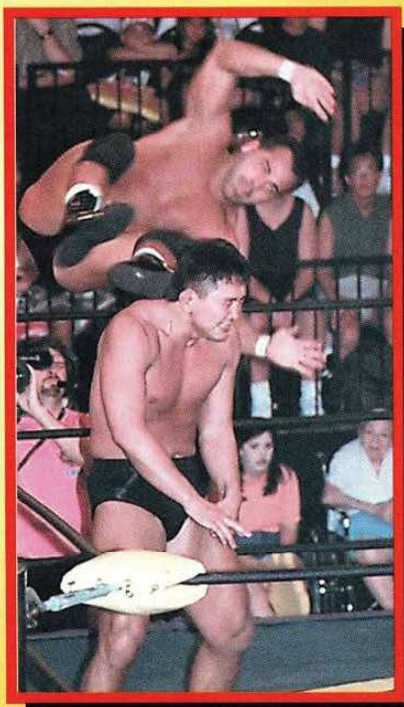


today's WCW fans, to be sure, are among the most sophisticated and learned of any in the mat world.

They see the changes going on in the sport, as WCW promoters continue to make it more international than it's ever been before. It's truly World Championship Wrestling.

"The international influence on WCW has never been more apparent than it is in the cruiserweight division," says Bob Richardson of Saugerties, New York, who attends wrestling cards at Manhattan's Theater at Madison Square Garden as well as 'The Garden."

"Benoit has competed in Japan and Germany, and it shows in his wrestling. Armstrong gives us that ol' Southern classic scientific flavor that WCW fans have grown up watching. Guerrero is one of the best wrestlers in Mexico and Japan, and now he's one of the best here. Don't forget The Earl of Eaton, who obviously has been getting a lot of the British influence. And with Sonny Onoo's constant importing of Japanese stars, you know you'll have an influence there as well. And you can't forget the 'Man of a Thousand Holds' ... Dean Malenko. This man rewrites the wrestling holds textbook on a daily basis and is quite rightly one of the most feared men in WCW, whether you're a heavyweight or a cruiserweight."



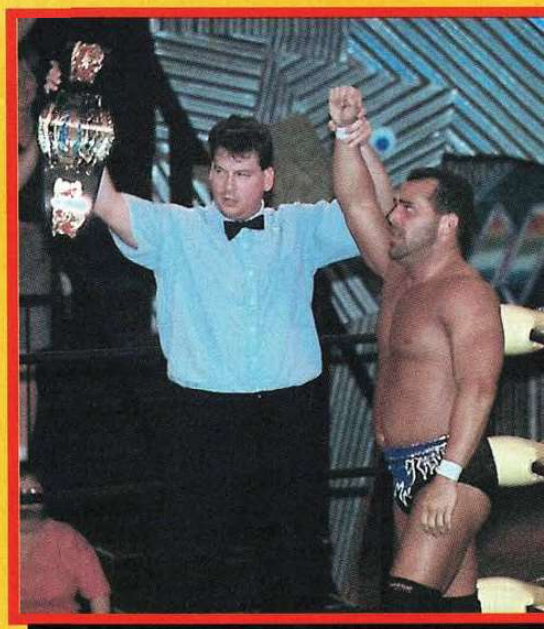
"I've never seen anything quite like this in all our years of watching wrestling!"

Fans will never see anything like WCW's cruiserweight division in the weeks and months to come, too. That's because the WCW Championship Committee is scouring the globe looking for the newest, freshest talent in the 200-to-235-pound range. That means that as new wrestlers are imported, the cruiserweight action is only going to get hotter and hotter.

So what will the fans' verdict be on this new, bold step by the world's most innovative wrestling federation, WCW? Thus far, fans at the arenas seem to be relishing the action they've been seeing. Are you?

Write to us at WCW Magazine and let us know. After all ... the only way the cruiserweight division will ever equal the heavier classes is if you make it every bit as popular.

"I know the fans will!" says Guerrero. "I'm going to be WCW Cruiserweight Champion of the World, and I'm going to take all the great WCW fans with me on the ride!"



TALKING POINT

With Tony Schiavone

Over the past 12 months, the number of tag teams here in WCW has greatly increased. Sometimes that is good for competition, sometimes that is bad. The first half of 1996 has seen an incredible growth in tag team action, the quickest rise in competition since I can remember.

With all of the above wordy filler said, I give you my Top Ten Tag Teams, and am pretty confident about their accuracy since I have seen every match to date in WCW.

10. PUBLIC ENEMY

If this were table dancing, they'd be No. 1. Sorry guys, this is wrestling.

9. THE BLUE BLOODS

An obvious rift in the ranks has pulled this trio way down. Normally, an alliance with the likes of Lord Steven Regal, Earl Robert Eaton and Squire Dave Taylor would be in the front or, at worst, the middle of the pack. However, it is pretty well known that Regal is getting tired of Eaton, thanks to Taylor. This problem is going to lead to bigger problems for The Blue Bloods and more attention getting away from the tag team title chase.

8. THE MEGA POWERS, HULK HOGAN AND "MACHO MAN" RANDY SAVAGE

No list of tag teams would be complete without this duo; however, they have completely walked away from the tag team scene as far as championship glory goes. That explains why this dynamic duo falls in at No. 8.

7. FIRE AND ICE

Scott Norton and Ice Train have all the tools to be the best and all the inexperience to keep them away from the top. Still, they are a powerful pair, perhaps the most powerful. The inexperience mostly lies within Ice Train. He is a kid with a lot still to learn; Norton, though, certainly has experience. So, I'd say after two years of being together, training together daily, spending time on the road with one another, they then might be No.1 in the rankings. But not until then. In the meantime, they do get my vote for the best combined biceps.

6. THE FACES OF FEAR

Meng and The Barbarian are the paradox of WCW: how can two guys this talented NOT be champions. Well, I have a theory, and it stems from a lack of communication. Meng and The Barbarian are, without question, the most feared team in WCW ... just ask Lex Luger why he is adamant about not rushing into matches, especially when the belt is on the line, with them.

5. THE NASTY BOYS

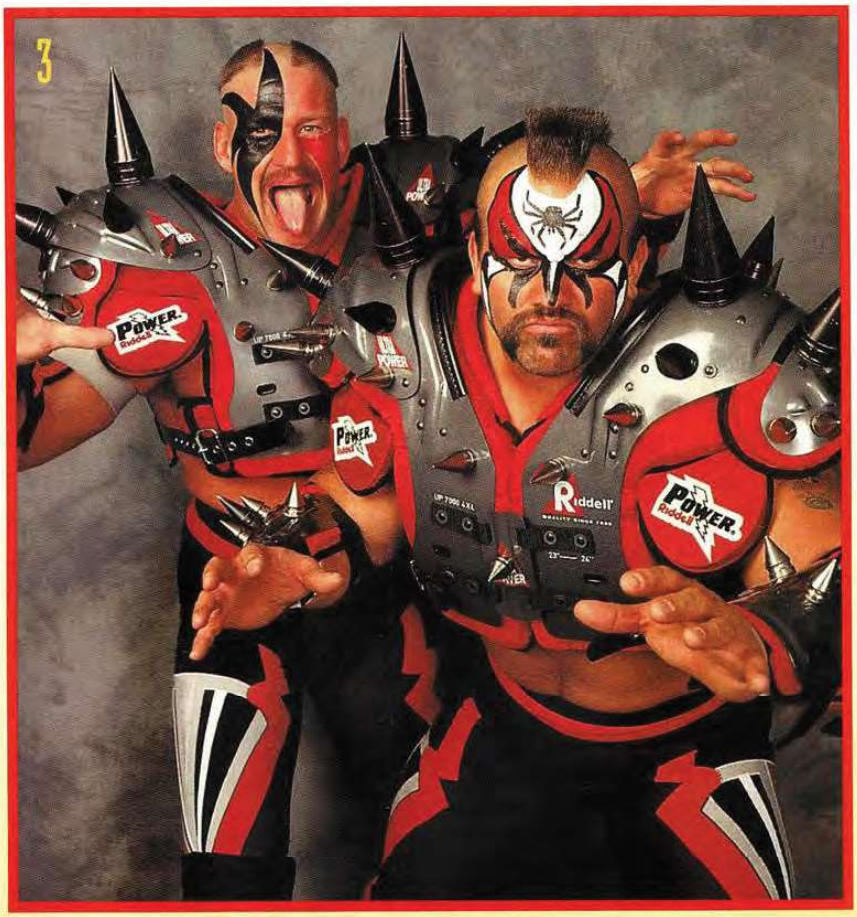
The dirty duo from New York City are like an old pair of shoes: they stink and are ugly, but damn they are dependable. They have taken street-fighting to a new art form in WCW. Wait a minute! Street fighting as an art? Yep, I'm watching too much of this stuff.

4. HARLEM HEAT

If being cocky got you the No. 1 ranking, Booker T and Stevie Ray would be the best in the world, bar none. But with that not being the case, let's look at some of the things they have in their favor: quickness, strength and ring savvy, to name a few. They also are tough, smart, fast and in great shape.

To me, the only thing keeping them from being No. 1 is a lucky break or two. Along with a little overconfidence. However, like The Steiner Brothers, Harlem Heat come from the same mom and dad, and have been together all their lives. So, like the old cliche goes, blood is thicker than water.

And when it's Harlem Heat water, it's very thick, very talented.



3. THE ROAD WARRIORS

This ranking is classic proof just how tough things are nowadays in WCW. Imagine, The Road Warriors falling in at No. 3, and this is, arguably, the greatest tag team of all time. But times have changed.

Even though they are No. 3, Hawk and Animal are still one of the feared pairs in the world. They have the ability to win the World Tag Team Championship at anytime, and probably will before 1996 is over.

One of the changes in The Road Warriors over time has been Animal's ailing back. It kept him out of the sport for two years. It's weak, and opponents exploit that fact.

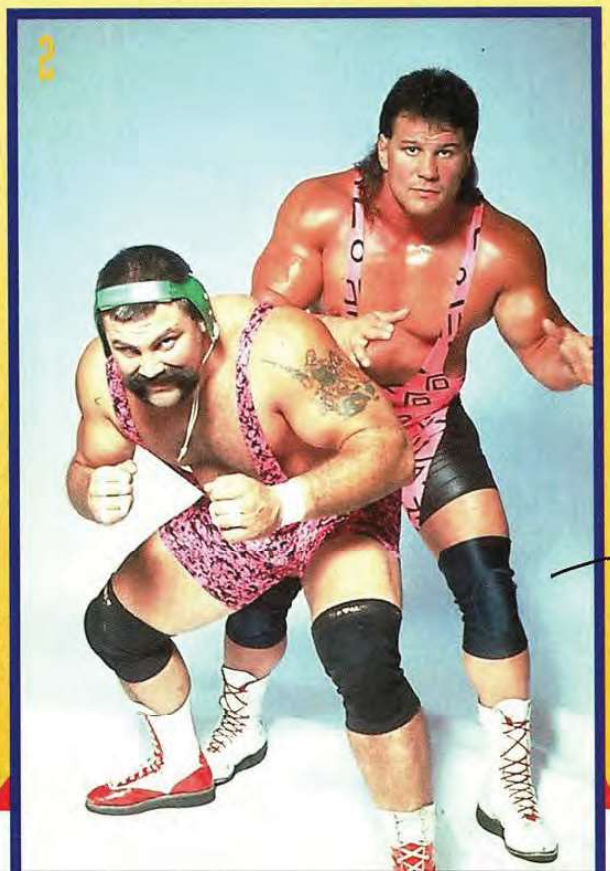
Still, the two are tough, very tough — and well deserving of their No. 3 ranking.

2. THE STEINER BROTHERS

The Steiner Brothers have that unusual combination: goofiness and power. You are not going to find a stronger — and stranger — pair than brothers Rick and Scott. Combine that weird attribute with the fact that they grew up together and you have one of WCW's most lethal teams of all time.

Some teams talk big, then don't hold up in the ring. Not so with Rick and Scott. They are afraid of absolutely no one.

There is another important thing about Rick and Scott ... they love to wrestle, hurt people and GET hurt. They love pain. Go figure this one out ... it is the leading attribute to that "goofiness" I mentioned earlier. These two are sick. Good ... but sick!



And finally, the No. 1 tag team in WCW ... STING AND LEX LUGER

Regardless of the rocky times between these two, Sting and Lex Luger are the best. The best by far. The old axiom 'It takes great singles wrestlers to make a great tag team' certainly comes into play here. Unlike most of the great tag teams in WCW, Sting and Lex primarily have been singles wrestlers during their career. Now that they've jumped into the tag team ranks, they are ahead by a country mile. And I hate to say so, but, the main reason is: Lex Luger's reckless style. Yes, Lex has broken many rules. Yes, he and Sting are at odds quite often. Yes, he is a confused individual. But that's what's made them so great. And, ya know, I'm not so sure Sting is really that mad about Luger's rule-breaking antics. Maybe he's just putting on a front ...

There you have it, the 2nd-annual Tony Schiavone Tag Team Rankings. And with the way things are nowadays in WCW, you can bet the rankings will be dramatically different when the third-annual edition arrives next year. Especially when you consider some of the forces that didn't crack the top ten, like the Horsemen, the Dungeon of Doom, Men At Work, American Males, etc., etc., etc.

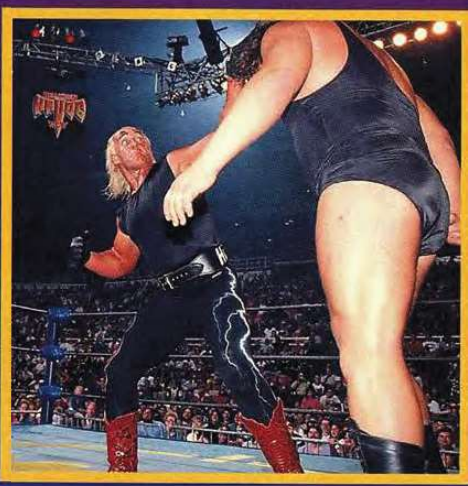
So, as the old saying goes, stay tuned.

Tony Schiavone

At long last it's
THE 1995 READER AWARDS

Match of the Year HULK HOGAN vs THE GIANT Halloween Havoc

1995 READER AWARD
MATCH OF THE YEAR
THE GIANT
V's HULK HOGAN
Halloween Havoc 1995
Detroit, Michigan
AS VOTED BY THE READERS OF
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
MAGAZINE



OK as the old adage goes ... better late than never and so without further ado let me introduce you to the rest of WCW Magazine's Reader's Award winners.

As amazing as it is, The Giant's first pro wrestling match also was the 1995 Match of the Year, as voted by the readers of WCW Magazine.

It was late-October, in downtown Detroit, Mich., when The Giant stepped into the ring with The Immortal Hulk Hogan, then the reigning champion.

But The Giant walked away from the ring with the belt firmly strapped around his waist. even though the WCW Championship Committee, shortly thereafter, stripped the belt from him.

"It is a very surprising, somewhat prestigious award. I say 'somewhat' prestigious award in that it was totally unexpected," The Giant said. "I've never been an award-seeker; I leave that up to guys like the American Males or Disco Inferno, guys who really need the attention."

"Still the award is a great honor; it's something I'm very glad to receive. "

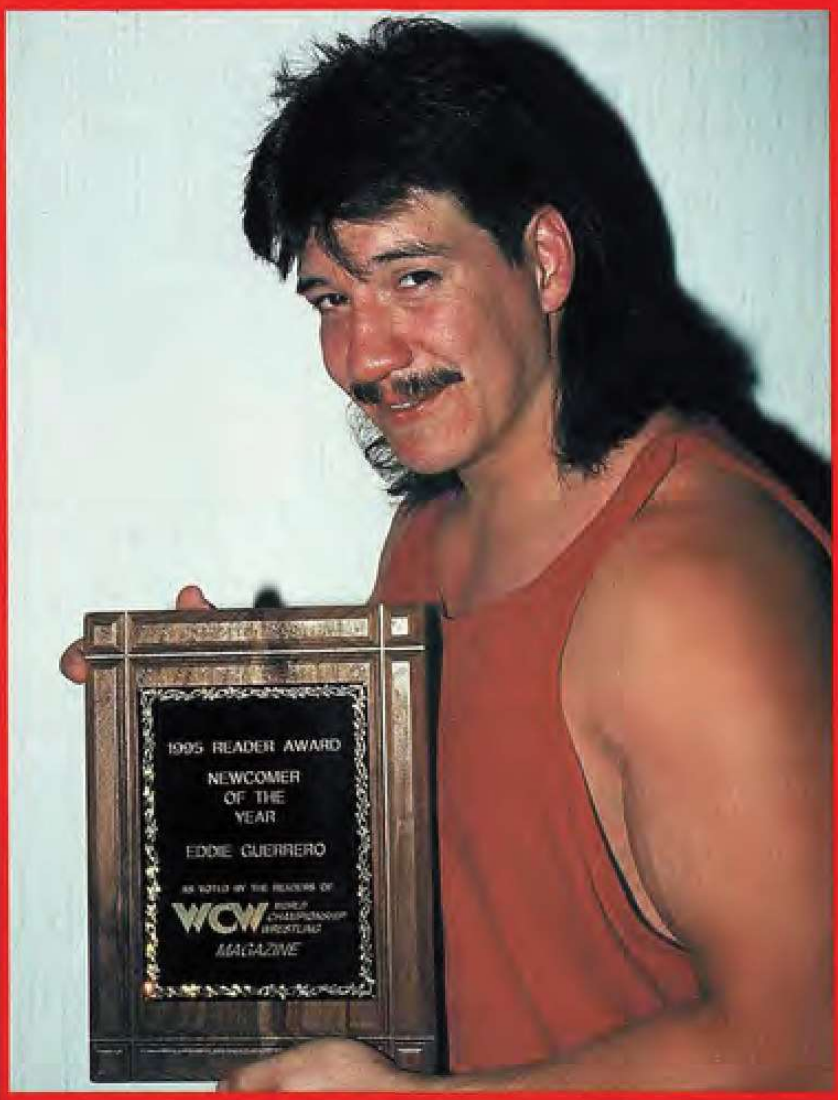
He added: "That Halloween Havoc match against one of wrestling's all-time greats. Hulk Hogan is the epitome of 'Never Say Die.' So that makes this award all the more meaningful."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When WCW Magazine officials went to present Hulk Hogan with his 1995 Match of the Year plaque — moments after The Giant received his — the plaque was mysteriously missing. We approached The Giant and his manager Jimmy Hart about the plaque's whereabouts and they strenuously denied any involvement with the mystery.

So, as you can see, there is no picture of The Immortal One with his plaque.

An investigation into the matter is underway and we will keep you updated.)

Runners-up
2nd Sting vs Hulk Hogan
3rd Arn Anderson vs Ric Flair
4th Hulk Hogan vs Lex Luger
5th 60 Man Battle Royal, World War 3



Newcomer of the Year EDDIE GUERRERO

To fully appreciate Eddie Guerrero's award as the 1995 Newcomer of the Year, you must first look at the competition. There's The Giant, Dean Malenko, Chris Benoit, Hugh Morrus and Disco Inferno to name a few.

But the electrifying aerial specialist from El Paso, Texas, was the top vote-getter among readers of WCW Magazine.

"I would like to personally thank WCW Magazine, the editorial staff of Colin Bowman, Ross Forman and Bob Smith for taking me into consideration. I would like to thank all of the readers of WCW Magazine for voting for me; I really appreciate it. And, last but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Lord, Jesus Christ; He is No. 1 in my life," Guerrero said. "Winning this award is a great honor. I'm glad to know that the fans recognize my contributions to this sport, the fact that I do my best (in) each and every match."

"I'd like to win some gold this year to go with this award, namely the U.S. Heavyweight Championship, held (as of press time) by Konan. I know, with the Lord's will, it will be mine, even if it's only for a day, hour or minute."

Runners-up
2nd Chris Benoit
3rd The Giant
4th Dean Malenko
5th Disco Inferno

Tag team of the Year HARLEM HEAT

Harlem Heat, the dynamic duo of Stevie Ray and Booker T, was voted the 1995 Tag Team of the Year by readers of WCW Magazine. And it should have come as no surprise, the pair said.

"As we've been trying to say for some time now, Harlem Heat is the No. 1 tag team in professional wrestling, bar none. And we now have the plaques to prove it," Stevie Ray snapped. "It ain't no shame in the game that we're the (award-) winners. Can you dig it?"

Added Booker T: "Winning (this award) is proof that the fans are finally telling it like it is."

After all, the WCW tag team scenario is LOADED, to say the least. Just consider some of Harlem Heat's opponents: The Road Warriors, Steiner Brothers, Blue Bloods, American Males, Mega Powers, Nasty Boys, Public Enemy and, certainly not least of all, Lex Luger and Sting.

"As far as the (Tag Team Championship) belts go, we have been shucked and jived out of them for a long time, and we're not too happy with that," Stevie Ray said. "We have opponents running, jumping, dodging us each and every way possible. But we'll get them back. Everyone knows that we are the uncrowned champions. We don't need any belts around our waists to know that we are the No. 1 tag team in professional wrestling. That doesn't mean, though, that we aren't going to re-claim them rather quickly."

Added Booker T: "We don't care where the opponents come from — America, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Italy, Israel, Indonesia, Japan or the Isle of Tonga — we'll beat everyone."

Runners-up
2nd American Males
3rd Nasty Boys
4th Mega Powers
5th Stud Stable

The Road Warriors are, unquestionably, the greatest tag team to ever step into the squared-circle!

Let's repeat that: The Road Warriors are, unquestionably, the greatest tag team to ever step into the squared-circle.

With that said (twice), WCW Magazine approached these Monsters of the Midway to ask them some questions on behalf of Bill Barcelona of Duluth, Minn.

How does it feel to be back together and was the old chemistry still there?

"Yes, the chemistry is still there," Hawk said, "and that's the chemistry between Animal and I, and between the fans and The Road Warriors. Since we re-united (this past) January in Las Vegas, the fans in the towns we've gone to have been going crazy. In late-April we were at the Tokyo Dome, in front of a sold-out crowd of about 70,000 and, when Animal walked into ring for the first time, it was the loudest cheer I had ever heard for one man. And I truly mean that."

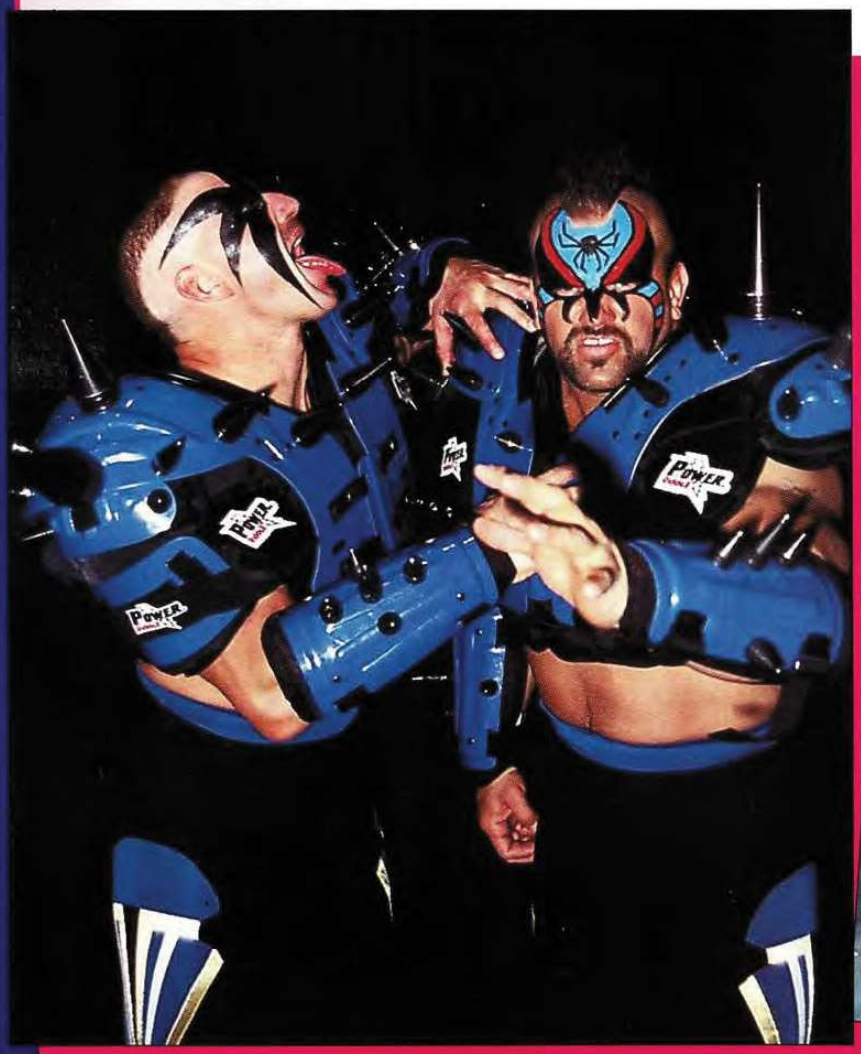
How far will The Road Warriors go to regain the WCW World Tag Team Championship?

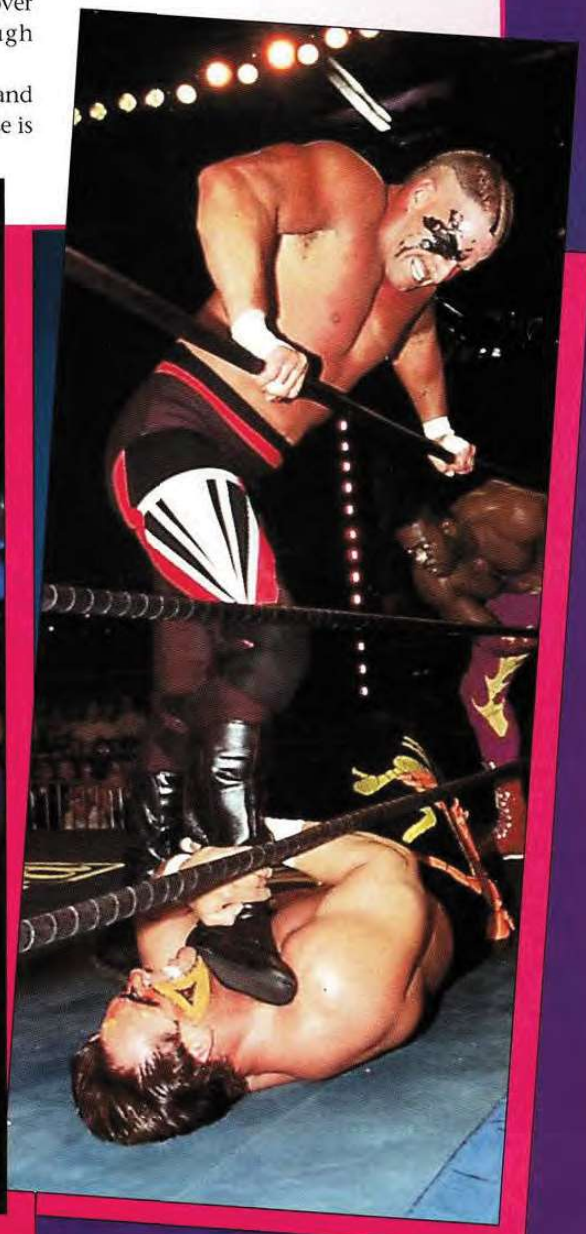
"Well, as you can see, we'll do just about anything to win the belts," Animal said. "That includes going over the Steiner Brothers and through Public Enemy's tables."

Hawk added: "We go out there and just try to do first what everyone else is doing to us. If that means using chairs, like Stevie Ray did to us at Uncensored, so be it. Speaking of that match, which was a Chicago Street Fight — our match — it was very disappointing that we lost our own match. But, the way I look at (the outcome) is, I was totally blind-sided and they needed help to secure the victory."

What do you think of Sting and Lex Luger?

"Sting is one of our brothers; he's OK with us, and that says something because we don't like too many people. He's the type of person who Animal or I would do anything for, if asked," Hawk said. "As for Lex Luger, I just don't know if I'd trust him. He's done some things for which I don't know if Sting should trust him — if Sting knew about them, that is. Sure, Lex Luger is a well-built specimen, but he certainly can be injured by The Road Warriors."





Who have been your toughest opponents?

"Sting certainly falls into that category, if only because he's such a good friend," Hawk said. "As for another tag team, the Steiner Brothers, no doubt, rank right up there. They are extremely tough and know so many moves. Over the years, I'd say we've probably only won about 60 percent of our matches against them, and that's a tribute to how good they are."

Added Animal: "Another team that certainly ranks right up there with any, particularly because of their size and attitude, was the late Bruiser Brody and Stan Hansen.

"Stan, as most people know, is still wrestling in Japan, where he's beating opponents to a pulp. Heck, his attacks couldn't even be shown on 'Cops.'"

Will The Road Warriors ever again have a manager?

"There's only one manager for The Road Warriors, Precious Paul Ellering," Animal said. "We still talk to him often — when we're stuck on a thought process, how to handle a contract or simply about something in the ring. He is still a major influence on our career, and always will be. And, maybe someday he'll be back in the picture ... you just never know."

Said Hawk, "If anyone was to come aboard as our manager, there would no other."

How did it feel to win the Crockett Cup?

"It felt great beating Ronnie Garvin and Magnum TA;" Hawk said. "That

was, we feel, the beginning of our dominance in WCW — and it showed us that, yes, we had the potential for being the best in the business."

Do both of you participate in other sports?

"Let me answer that one," Hawk said, laughing. "Animal is a very good golfer, especially for a 300-pounder. As for myself, well, I'm a terrible golfer; I hit the ball a long way, but have no clue where it's going."

"Animal also is involved in coaching: hockey, football and wrestling."

(Editor's Note: Animal's son Joe is a competitive amateur wrestler, while son James and daughter Jessica are competitive hockey players.)

Do you still own the sports wear company Zubaz, and do you endorse any other products?

"As for Zubaz, we are no longer involved with them," Animal said. "We do, though, endorse a protein line: Extreme Nutrition."

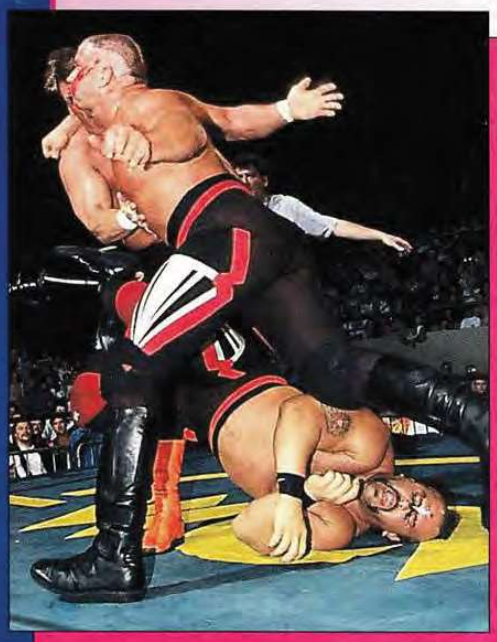
What do you feel about The Four Horsemen?

"Are there Four Horsemen?" Hawk said. "To me, there are only three, at best."

"The original Four Horsemen were awesome; nothing will ever compare to the original."

Do you think you could beat the Mega-Powers, Hulk Hogan and "Macho Man" Randy Savage?

"Ooooh yeah," Hawk said, imitating Savage, "that's one question we'd love to get an answer to."



"We've rarely been in the ring with the Immortal Hulk Hogan — most recently in the early-1990s, in Japan, when he teamed with The Great Muta. There's no doubt in my mind — or Animal's, I'm sure — that The Mega Powers vs. The Road Warriors would be an awesome match! And I don't know why promoters haven't made that match. If that isn't a big money match, I don't know what is."

Added Animal: "After that match, you wouldn't have to have an undercard."

What advice can you give to anyone who wishes to train with weights and do you have any dietary tips?

"If someone needs to lose a little (weight) in mid-section, I suggest a low- to no-carbohydrate diet," Hawk said. "Generally, though, I simply suggest eating a well-rounded diet."

Have you ever thought about opening your own gym?

"Actually, we have," Animal said, "we have had a strings of gyms — appropriately called, The Gym — in the Minneapolis area."

Animal, Which injury gave you the most concern: the spinal injury or the eye injury when the Powers of Pain attacked you with the 500-pound weights and did you ever think about giving up the sport?

"Giving up wrestling? No way; that's why I'm back," he said. "The back injury was worse, especially when you consider that several therapists said I wouldn't ever wrestle again."

Is Kensuke Sasaki still an ally now that Animal is back, and will we ever see Hawk, Power (aka, Sasake) and Animal team up in six-man competition?

"Actually, the three of us went against the Steiner Brothers and Scott Norton before about 70,000 fans in Japan in late-April, so, yes, the three of us will team up from time to time," Hawk said. "Teaming with Kensuke was beneficial to both of us, I feel. He is now excelling in singles competition wrestling and is, quite possibly, the most popular wrestler in Japan. I have the utmost respect for him, as I think he does for me."

"No one could replace Animal, but Kensuke was pretty close. He's every bit as good as Animal, just in a different manner."

Where would you like to live when you retire?
Hawk: Tampa, Fla.
Animal: Minnesota.

Have you ever considered making any movies or a TV series?

"That would be my dream after (retiring from) wrestling, but, I don't know if I'll do it. Actually, I think I'd prefer talk radio or voice-over work," Hawk said. "Those are tough fields to break in to, so we'll have to wait and see."

Said Animal: "I would prefer spending the time with my wife and kids."

What is your career highlight to date?
Hawk: "Wrestling in Pyongyang, North Korea, in May of 1995, in front of 170,000 fans for two consecutive nights. That was amazing."
Animal: "Winning the Crockett Cup."

What color shoulder pads do you prefer, red or blue?

"Red," Animal said, "because the blue look just a little too weak for The Road Warriors."

Animal: What are the two tattoos on your arms?

"Both feature the Tazmanian Devil," he said. "One has Taz with spikes, while the other shows him with a couple of big dumbells. And I also have my name written in Japanese."

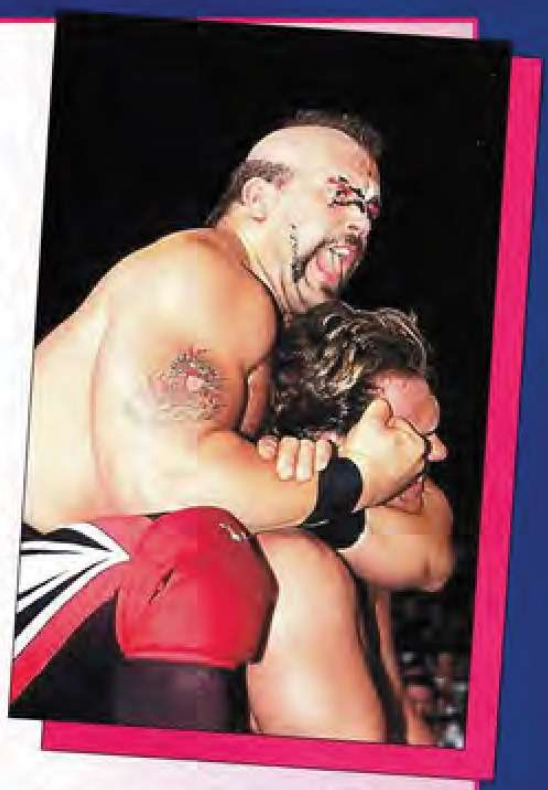
Who are your closest friends:
Hawk: "My fiance, Dale. She's the only one — besides Animal — who can put up with me."
Animal: "My family."

What cars do you own?
Animal: A Lexus and a sporty GMC truck.
Hawk: A Lincoln Mark VIII and a Fatboy Harley-Davidson.

Do you have any pets?
Animal: "I have three dogs (two labradors and a welsh corgi)."
Hawk: "We are planning on getting a dog, but not sure yet of what type."

"As a kid, I had a lot of pets, but not your 'normal' kinds. Instead, I had snakes, tarantulas, crabs and scorpions, among other things. Yep, I even had a six-foot snake, Bill The Boa."

What has been your favorite arena to wrestle in and where is the best place you have ever wrestled?
"Home: the Rosemont Horizon, in suburban Chicago," Hawk said.



Complete this sentence: at this time next year, The Road Warriors will be ...

"Looking for new opponents since there just are not enough tag teams — here in the U.S. or in Japan — to hang with us."

Well that's all there is to it! Send your questions to:

USA & Canada
Face the Fans
WCW Magazine
One CNN Center
Box 105366
Atlanta, GA 30348-5366

UK & Ireland
Face the Fans
WCW Magazine
Cell Publishing Ltd
28/30 Osnaburgh St.
London NW1 3ND

And remember, be creative!

HOTLINE

MARK MADDEN

DISCLAIMER: This column features the comments and thoughts of Mark Madden. WCW Magazine nor WCW endorse or agree with his opinions and any complaints should be made to the man himself.

The Giant is the World Heavyweight Champion.

And I like it.

That might sound funny coming from a Ric Flair die-hard, but The Giant is a different face doing different things. I always enjoy a Ric Flair World title reign, but others who have held the WCW belt recently have made me feel as if I'd seen it before. They were the same old people doing the same old things.

I think The Giant is fresh.

I think The Giant is unbelievably athletic for his size.

I think The Giant has an air of true invincibility.

Here's what I know for sure about The Giant.

He's 7-foot-4 tall, over 400 pounds. He played college basketball at Wichita State. He is 24. He is the first wrestler to ever win the WCW World Heavyweight Championship as a rookie, i.e. in his first full year of professional wrestling.

And, he's a hell of a lot better athlete than Andre ever dreamed of being.

Like I said, this guy is still in his first year of wrestling. He's still a bit nervous. He still hasn't shown all his stuff.

Truth be told, he hasn't even scratched the surface.

For example, he lost some of his inhibitions on a New Japan tour recently and flattened Taduo Yasuda with a dropkick from the top rope. I know the legend of a great man like Andre grows even more after an early death. But I don't think anyone ever remembers Andre attempting any aerial maneuvers.

The Giant will get better and better.

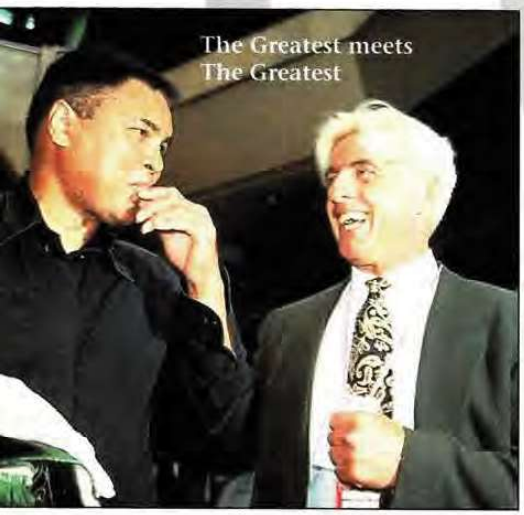
He will be American wrestling's next household name. He will be Japanese wrestling's next imported superstar. In fact, I'm predicting The Giant will be even more of an attraction in Japan than he will in the United States.

How to stop The Giant from dominating WCW?

Well, Wayne Fontes has an idea. The Detroit Lions' head coach wants him to come and play the line for him. He's a real athlete.

And a real World Champion.

Researching whether The Giant was, indeed, the first rookie WCW Champion put me in touch with noted wrestling expert Dave Meltzer, who told me that NFL Hall-of-Famer Bronco Nagurski won the World title in his second year of pro wrestling, back in 1939. He had retired from football in 1937.



The Greatest meets The Greatest

Anyway The Giant's accomplishment got us to discussing the merits of past World Champions. Here is a list of who I consider to be the top WCW World Champions of all time. Those who held the National Wrestling Alliance title are included. (Editor's Note: Why don't you all write in with your choices and we'll compile an all-time fans list.)

MARK MADDEN'S ALL-TIME TOP WORLD CHAMPIONS. Times title held in parenthesis.

1. "NATURE BOY" RIC FLAIR (13) - The bottom line is this: Ric Flair has held the title more than anyone, in terms of both reigns and years. He first won it in 1981. He had success drawing crowds as a traveling World Champion in the days before pay-per-view, and has been successful on pay-per-views. He's had more good matches than anyone ever, excelling against all types of opponents. His charisma and interview ability have always upgraded the credibility of the title. Simply put, there isn't a better man.

2. LOU THESZ (6) - Thesz held the belt into his 50s, winning it for the first time in 1937 and losing it for good in 1966. He was a dazzling technical wrestler, utilizing the Thesz press, Greco-Roman backdrop and the STF, his stepover toehold/facelock submission. He was a tough man and an honorable man. He drew big money. And when a winner-take-all match between Thesz and then-Brand X champion Bruno Sammartino was proposed in the early 60s — when Thesz was 50 and Bruno not yet 30 — it was Bruno who chumped out.

3. FRANK GOTCH (1) - Gotch put the NWA title on the map when he held the belt between 1908 - 1913. In fact Gotch put American pro wrestling on the map. He may have been the most famous athlete in the United States in his heyday. Gotch was a good mat wrestler in an era when it was necessary, and he was a real dirty fighter. His cardiovascular conditioning was unreal — he wrestled several matches that lasted two hours or more.

4. ED "STRANGLER" LEWIS (4) - As his name might indicate, Lewis won his matches with a powerful headlock. He first won the belt in 1920 and lost it for good 1935. Wrestling's popularity went downhill for a bit when Gotch lost the belt, but Lewis revitalized it. He could go the distance, too — he once engaged Joe Stecher in a five-hour draw that ended at 3 AM. Imagine explaining that to a pay-per-view distributor.

5. DORY FUNK JR. (1) - One of the best traveling World Champions ever due to his ability to mesh his style with whatever foe he would encounter in each promotion. Usually a subtle bad guy, Funk's speciality was the spinning toe hold. Funk is somewhat unique in that he was a mediocre performer when he won the title from Gene Kiniski in 1969, but gradually became an incredible technician once he got the belt. Funk lost it in 1973.

6. "NATURE BOY" BUDDY ROGERS (1) — Rogers helped revolutionize wrestling as one of the first performers to utilize modern-day showmanship and as one of the first to wrestle in sequential fashion. He was a great interview, a solid draw and an accomplished bad guy. He was the first to make extensive use of the figure-four leglock. Ric Flair's persona was inspired by watching tapes of Rogers. Rogers held the title from 1961 - 1963.

7. HARLEY RACE (8) - The human suplex machine, Race did as much to further the reputation of the title as anyone, traveling constantly to defend it in all corners of the globe. Race had a slow but solid style, often using it to build crowd intensity. Like Dory Funk Jr., he successfully tailored his style to that of various hometown opponents. His signature hold, besides his varied suplexes, was the Indian deathlock. Race first won the championship in 1973 and lost it for good in 1984.

8. TERRY FUNK (1) - Like his brother Dory Jr., he used the spinning toehold. And that's where the similarities end. Terry Funk was the first total bad guy, the first maniac, to hold the NWA title. He brought brawling and violence to world championship matches on a consistent basis, a revolutionary idea at the time. He was entertaining, an excellent draw and a charismatic interview. He held the championship from 1975 - 77.

9. "GOLDEN GREEK" JOHN LONDOS (1) - The first World Champ to be popular based on looks more than anything else, Londos was a good-looking guy with a bodybuilder's physique, a real matinee-idol type. He was an incredible drawing card and his presence was the basis for almost any success the pro wrestling business enjoyed during his 1930 - 35 title reign.

10. RICKY "THE DRAGON" STEAMBOAT (1) - A personal pick. Steamboat held the title for under three months, from Feb. 20 — May 7, 1989, but had more good matches in that time than most world champions have over much lengthier reigns. Steamboat's specialities were the flying bodypress and double chicken-wing. His matches against arch-rival Flair during that period are considered by me to be the best matches of all-time.

Mark Madden hosts the WCW Hotline updates on a Wednesday and Friday

BUZZ

MEAN GENE OKERLUND

The response to last month's column featuring referee Randy "Pee Wee" Anderson was, I admit, a bit shocking. I received more letters and phone calls of praise for that piece than any other that I have written. And, "Pee Wee" reports that he too has seen a vast increase in fan correspondence since that issue — with The Giant on the cover — hit newsstands worldwide in mid-May. So, evidently, WCW viewers do take notice — and seem to be quite pleased — with our men-of-law-and-order. To that, it's my privilege to introduce you this month to Nick Patrick, a 35-year-old loving husband (to wife Cheryl) and father of two (Nick, 10; and Tony, 7) who also can be seen on all of WCW's telecasts.

Seeing Nick Patrick in the ring isn't a surprise, even as a referee, especially for those of us who have been involved in the sport for, uh-hum, a "couple" of years. You see, years back there was a feared combatant known as The Assassin. He had a vast arsenal of moves, legal and otherwise. Well, The Assassin has since retired from active duty and now runs WCW's Power Plant, training a future generation of grapplers for stardom.

So what's The Assassin's connection to Nick?

Father-son.

Yep, Nick's knowledge in the ring is handed down from one of the all-time greats.

"I spent a lot of time on the road with my dad," Patrick began, "one time, in Iowa in 1980, the referee was late arriving at the arena, so they threw me out there."

"I loved it"

And was hooked, even though he preferred to be in the ring as a combatant. (Patrick had a brief pro wrestling career in the early-1980s, but it didn't last.)

Patrick joined WCW as a part-time referee in 1986. He was hired full-time the following year, and was the third man in the ring for the big Ric Flair-Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat clash.

"I still remember my first match ... I was SO nervous, even though I had been around the sport my whole life," Patrick said, smiling.

Patrick's career has included matches featuring most of the sports all-time greats, such as Harley Race, Dusty Rhodes, The Masked Superstar, Mr. Wrestling II, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, "Macho Man" Randy Savage and so many others.

So which match stands out?

"Truthfully, the Nasty Boys-Harlem Heat match (from Uncensored '95) was one I'll never forget," he said. "It was so wild, so much fun, but one I certainly had to stay out of the way."

Patrick, who lives in Atlanta and was a 1979 graduate of North Clayton High School, also is an avid musician. He has played guitar since his days in junior high school and now plays for a band, Living In Sanity.

"I like Metallica, Aerosmith and music of that (genre)," Patrick said. "Playing music is my form of entertainment. Plus, you don't get hurt as much playing a guitar as you do wrestling or refereeing. And that comes from first-hand experience; I've had knee surgery twice, a broken wrist, hyper-extensions and any number of bruises over the years."

Patrick added: "I really enjoy my job. Sure, there are challenges to the job, especially in tag team matches and with some big, intimidating guys in WCW. But, I wouldn't trade it for anything; I'm really proud of my job."

And so too, I'm sure, is The Assassin. Rightfully so.

Elsewhere in WCW ...

The weekend version of NBC's "The Today Show" paid a late-April visit to The Power Plant. They filmed 10 wrestling wanna-be's beginning on a Wednesday and, by the next day, all were forced to quit, unable to hack the rigors of wrestling life. In fact, one prospective student quit after 12 MINUTES — he told the cameras that it was "just too much pain to continue." WCW's Power Plant is run by The Assassin with help from instructors Pez Whatley, Dewayne Bruce and Mike Winner.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage appeared May 14 on the nationally-syndicated talk show "Crook & Chase."

Hollywood is calling The Giant. Yep, the film and TV folks from Southern California have offered the reigning (as of press time) WCW Heavyweight Champion several prominent roles. The Giant, however, was unavailable for comment on them. The Giant also was offered a try-out by the NFL's Detroit Lions which says wonders about his athletic ability, especially when you consider the fact that he was a college BASKETBALL player.

I can't wait to see Steve "Mongo" McMichael in the ring. No doubt he'll be an All-Pro performer once again.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution ran a business section story recently about the Main Event Fitness Centers, owned and operated by Sting and Lex Luger.

Lex Luger participated June 4-5 in a celebrity golf outing in Windsor, Ont., to benefit the Sunshine Foundation. And I'm sure Larry Zybszko was quite jealous being the big-time duffer that he is. Hey, Larry, is your handicap still below five?

Sgt. Craig Pittman and Teddy Long attended a mid-May Special Olympics affair in Atlanta that also attracted representatives from all other major sports teams in town.

As the popularity of WCW continues to grow, head-honcho Eric Bischoff has been featured in any number of major daily newspapers this spring, including the New York Daily News, Miami Herald and Charleston Post-Courier, among others.

Well that's it for this month, I'll report back to you next month.

Did you know Nick Patrick used to wrestle?

Mean Gene Okerlund is the co-host of the weekly WCW Main Event program on TBS. You can also hear him every Saturday on the WCW Hotline.

THE Regal DECREE

I want to begin this month by enlightening a few — probably most — of you regarding part of last month's prose. I did make note in Issue No. 16 that the Belfast Bruiser, Dave "Fit" Finlay was sitting quite uncomfortably in a hospital bed. Perhaps you noticed that I didn't say why and, well, the reason is simple, I was still in shock from the most brutal encounter of my life: during a match here in America that spilled into the car-park. I showed my true fighting spirit as an Englishman during that match and lowered my manners by, as it were, going to the streets to fight this heathen. Well, as you know, the result was: I piledrove him through the roof of a car, something that my noble self would not normally do. But, with an enemy like this — someone who would not leave me until the day I die — I had to do everything I could to take care of the matter at hand ... and I did just that. After all there was no way I could lower myself to team with him at Slamboree either.

One more thing about Mr. Finlay, I know my "random pairing" with the Belfast Bruiser was no sheer coincidence. It was, instead, a conspiracy by WCW to insult my intelligence. How pathetic do those coat-and-tie clowns in WCW's corporate office think I am? If they ever try an antic of this sort again, they will be hearing from my lawyers.

In Mr. Bobby "The Brain" Heenan's column last month, he asked, 'Why can't The Blue Bloods and Mr. Finlay get along since they all are foreigners? My response to that is: nonsense. Although Mr. Heenan is a rather wise American, one of the few, this has to be one of his greatest gaffes to date. The long-standing history between our two countries dates much further than America. I'd go into further details here, but, I know it will only be censored by WCW officials before it gets to print.

Britain and England are two different things. I am English, and very proud to be. The Scottish, the Welsh and the Irish can keep to themselves.

My challenge to the WCW Heavyweight Champion, whoever it is when this issue hits the newsstand, still stands. (Are you listening, Giant?) The man is 7-foot-4, 450-pounds, which is about 35 stones, but he's nothing more than an escapee from Barnum and Bailey's Circus. And if he thinks for even one moment that he can out-grapple myself, well, he's greatly mistaken. The fact that he's 450-pounds does not make him great in my eyes. I am confident that he will be dropping to the floor in front of me. I not only would hurt him physically, but, I also would hurt him emotionally. And when he's kneeling in front of me, he will get the back of my hand right across his face which, as any Englishman will attest, is the greatest insult known to mankind.

I've beaten Ric Flair in the past ... and am quite certain it can be done rather easily again.

Hulk Hogan and "Macho Man" Randy Savage ... well, I've never been in the ring with either of them in a one-on-one encounter. And that's at their choice. They know that I can — and would — embarrass them. Their egos could not handle the fact that they were being beaten by an Englishman.

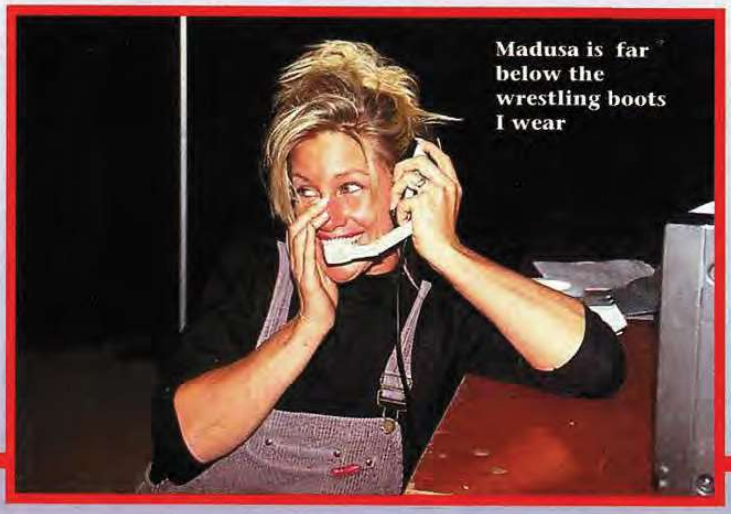
By now, everyone in the world is well-aware of the "typical American," Randy Savage, aka, "Macho Man." Here's a guy who, unquestionably, has gone off the deep end. He does not deserve to be wearing a pair of wrestling boots; he should be locked in a padded room for, oh, 10 or 15 years. Mr. Savage seems to be incensed with the Horse-nose, Ric Flair, flirting with his ex-wife. Nonsense, I say. Miss. Elizabeth is his Ex, he must remember.

A little more about the "Macho Man" ... he's nothing more than a disgrace to humanity. He should realize that we are here to wrestle, compete — not get incensed with rage, jealousy and anger over this strumpet.

I want to spend a little time this month reflecting on the spring-time John F. Kennedy auction by Sotheby's in New York City that generated millions and millions of dollars, which truly is an amazing amount. This man, who was of Irish decent — need I say anymore? — was an obnoxious, no-good human being. When Mr. Kennedy left this world it really was no big deal, least of all to me. I know you Americans have a lot of trouble reading anything more than magazines, but, go to your local library, check out a book about Mr. Kennedy and you will see that I was right in my assessment of this ex-President.

Shortly, all of you hapless Americans will over-indulge yourself in a "holiday" on July 4, what you call Independence Day. Non-sense, I say. It is just the fourth day of the seventh month, as it is every year. I must laugh, after you eat hot dogs on that "holiday," you entertain yourselves with fireworks. Boy are the Americans easily amused.

As of last month, I believe Madusa has been added to the list of columnists in WCW Magazine. What a shock! And for WCW Magazine editor Colin Bowman, if Madusa ever gets higher billing in the magazine than yours truly, it will be a back-handed slap to your face ... and I know you know what that means and feels like. As for Madusa, well, the only thing I really care to say is, when you're pinned by a 50-year-old, out-of-shape carnival promoter, maybe it's time to hang 'em up. Madusa is far below the wrestling boots I wear.



Madusa is far below the wrestling boots I wear

That's it for this month ... ta-ta for another 30 days.

Yours Loyally
Lord Alistair Regal
Blackpool England

Be afraid...be

Meng was awesome on his own, but since taking on the Barbarian as his partner, these two huge men are doing what many thought was impossible: They're at the top of the contender rankings for the WCW World Tag Team title!

World Tag Team Champions Lex Luger and Sting. The Nasty Boys. Harlem Heat. Public Enemy. Men At Work. The Blue Bloods. The Road Warriors. Rick and Scott Steiner. Fire & Ice. The American Males. And on. And on. And on ...

There is little doubt that the tag team competition in WCW is hotter than it has ever been before. It seems that with each passing day, more great teams enter the federation, making the competition that much more ferocious.

Just when you thought things got as wild as they could be, here come The Faces of Fear.

No, not THOSE Faces of Fear from a year ago (Avalanche, Butcher, Kevin Sullivan).

The Faces of Fear are horrifying WCW

No, they are not those men, even though they compete under the auspices of Sullivan's bizarre Dungeon of Doom. Meet Meng and the Barbarian, who pound for pound may be WCW's most dangerous and cunning team, even with all those other great tandems we mentioned above!

If ever two men have justified their name ... it is The Faces of Fear and their reign of terror is just beginning.

Just look at the stats: Meng is a whopping 294 pounds with almost 19 years of pro mat experience. Barbarian, who once was featured on bodybuilder Lee Haney's ESPN conditioning program, is a sculpted 295 pounds with nearly 15 years of experience. Put them together, and you have a savage 589-pound team that will stop at nothing to win, and that's exactly what they've been doing in recent weeks.

A recent bout against Public Enemy gives a good example of what The Faces of Fear are capable of. At first confused and bewildered by the all-out brawling tactics of Johnny Grunge and Rocco Rock, The Faces of Fear started to match the crazed Philadelphia fanatics at their own game!

e very afraid...

At one point, Barbarian climbed to the top turnbuckle and dove off about 20 feet to the floor — which was blocked by a table of course!

In reality, the pairing of Meng and Barbarian seems like a natural, and that's why they've scored upset after upset in route to their shockingly high ranking in WCW. Mainly, it's because of their willingness to do anything at all to win.

Meng and his Asiatic spike are always a concern of foes such as Luger, who have felt it before.

Barbarian's wealth of power is something that men such as Sting and Booker T always have to keep aware of.

In fact, match up The Faces of Fear against ANY WCW team, and who would you pick?

Although they're a new team, Meng and Barbarian were a serious threat from the first time they decided to enter a ring together. It was destiny that these two men should team and it is something that has nearly happened on several occasions in the past, and would have happened had Barbarian not been busy fulfilling other tag team commitments.

Obviously, where The Faces of Fear are going is better than where they've been.

For Meng, the past year in WCW has been one of confusion and chaos, even though he scored a disputed pinfall win over Luger on an early edition of WCW Monday Nitro. As a singles wrestler, he's always been one of the federation's most respected men, but he was (mis) managed by Col. Parker. Then he was used by Kevin Sullivan as a stalwart member of the Dungeon of Doom, carrying out his bidding. He had a great feud against Sting over the US Championship, but in the end he came up short in their classic battles.

Barbarian has been even more frenetic in his pursuits. For years, he was a member of The Powers of Pain along with the equally destructive Warlord. At more than 600 pounds, everyone picked the Powers as sure future World Tag Team Champions, but they were never able to accomplish that goal, either in WCW or the WWF.

Perhaps the fact they were managed by such chronic underachievers as Paul Jones, Slick and the hapless Mr. Fuji had a lot to do with their lack of success. More recently, Barbarian was a member of The "New" Headshrinkers in the WWF, a team only notable for their utter lack of notoriety.

Today, things have changed. Barbarian and Meng are so successful that they've even attracted the eye of legendary manager Jimmy Hart. Both of the big men refuse to give interviews, and Hart is closed-lipped about his intentions with The Faces of Fear. As the weeks pass, though, Barbarian and Meng simply get into the ring, stun their opponents with their blend of power, speed, agility, and martial-arts savvy.

And they win.

They always do.

Can these veteran savages upset the field and take home the gold?

American
MALES
WCW
World Championship
Wrestling™

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

CATCH THE BIG ONE!

WCW™

BASH AT THE BEACH

NOTE: CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

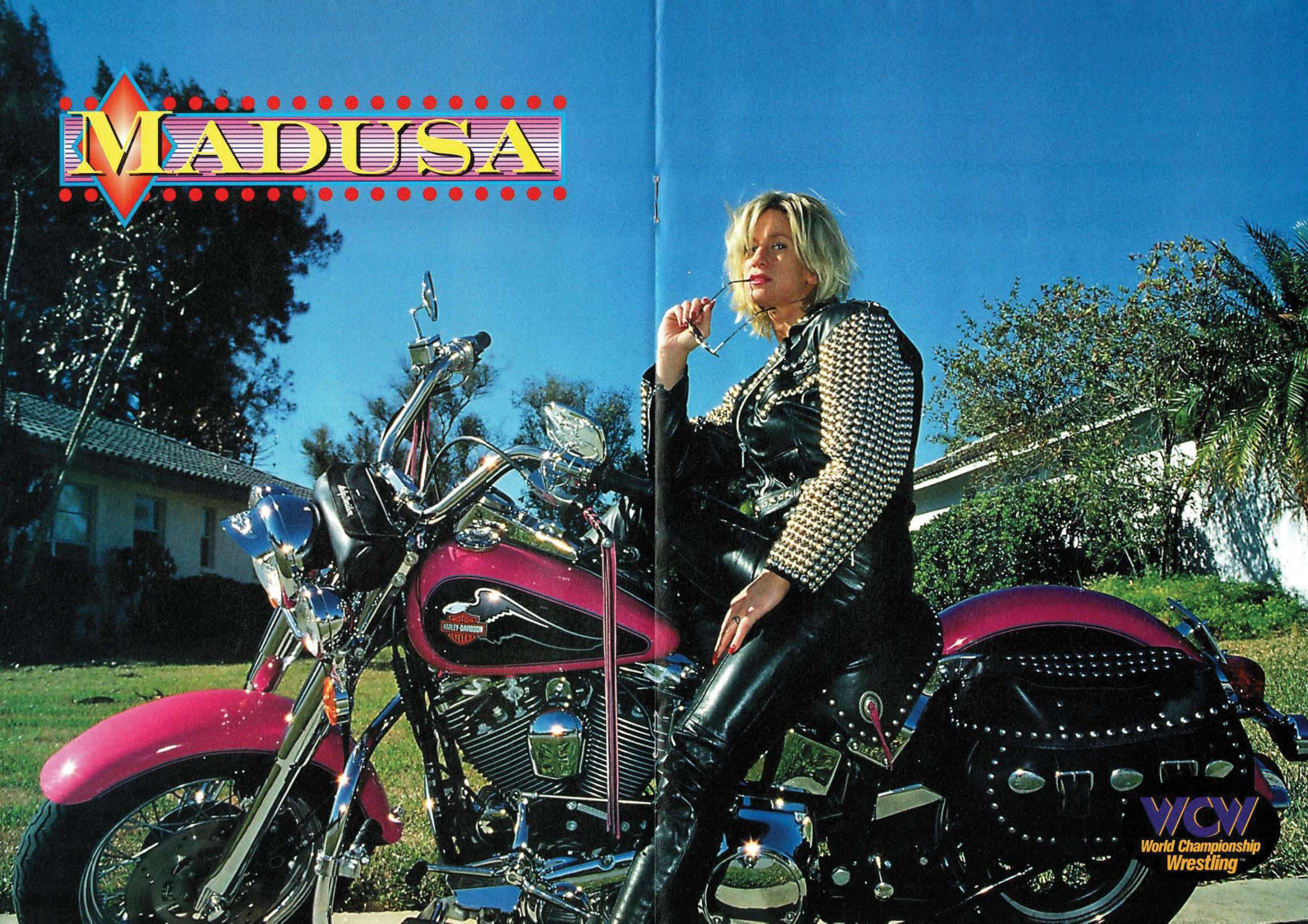
SUNDAY, JULY 7

1-800-843-9266

1-800-347-3288

7PMET / 4PMPT

CALL YOUR LOCAL CABLE OR SATELLITE COMPANY TO ORDER NOW!


MADUSA
WCW
World Championship
Wrestling